

Martens seen losing ground in polls

BRUSSELS (AP) — Initial results of Sunday's general elections showed Prime Minister Wilfried Martens' four-party centre-right government losing ground to the opposition Socialists while keeping its legislative majority. With 6.5 per cent of the vote counted, the ruling alliance was projected to get at least 109 of the 212 parliamentary seats. This would be a loss of six seats, but Mr. Martens would retain a legislative majority. The projections, based on results from 120 of the 3,691 polling stations, showed Mr. Martens' own Dutch-speaking Christian Democrats losing six seats and their Francophone counterparts one. The other alliance members, the Dutch and French-speaking conservative parties, would remain stable, the former gaining two seats, the latter losing one. The Francophone Socialist Party was projected to gain three seats, going to 38, and their Dutch-speaking counterparts were seen holding stable at 32 seats.

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Rifai and Ramadan chair meetings today

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Zaid Rifai returned home from a Gulf tour on Sunday to head the Jordanian team to the joint Jordanian-Iraqi Higher Committee meetings which open here today. The Iraqi side to the meetings will be headed by Iraqi First Deputy Premier Taha Yassin Ramadan who arrives here today. Mr. Rifai accompanied his Majesty King Hussein in a visit to the Arab Gulf states and attended the King's meetings with leaders of Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates. Upon arrival at Amman Airport Mr. Rifai was received by Deputy Prime Minister Abdul Wahab Al Majali and a number of Cabinet members.

Haj Hassan holds talks with Baccouche

TUNIS (Petra) — Scopes of cooperation between Tunisia and Jordan and means of further developing them were the main topics of discussion at a meeting held on Sunday between Tunisian Premier Sayed Hadi Baccouche and Jordan's Minister of Labour and Social Development Khaled Al Haj Hassan. During the meeting, which was also attended by Jordan's Ambassador to Tunisia, alal Al Hassan and Tunisia's social development minister, Mr. Haj Hassan conveyed the greetings of Prime Minister Zaid Rifai to the Tunisian premier. Mr. Haj Hassan is now in Tunis to head meetings of the executive bureau of the Council of Arab Ministers of Social Affairs, which started here on Friday. He also took part in the council's eighth annual session, which was held in the Tunisian capital last week.

Aziz, Andreotti meet in Rome

ROME (R) — Italian Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti met Iraqi Foreign Affairs Minister Tariq Aziz on Sunday for talks in the Iran-Iraq war, the Italian Foreign Ministry said. The statement gave no details of the meeting, which took place during a stopover in Rome by Mr. Aziz on his way home from talks at the United Nations in New York on a July 20 Security Council resolution calling for a ceasefire in the war.

Fadlallah urges Muslims to unite and hit Israel

AALBEK, Lebanon (R) — The spiritual leader of the pro-Iranian Hizbollah (Party of God) urged all Muslim forces in Lebanon on Sunday to unite and strike against Israel. Sheikh Mohammad Hussein Fadlallah was speaking at a ceremony commemorating four Hizbollah guerrillas killed in an attack last week on a Israeli-backed South Lebanon army militia in South Lebanon. "The glory and value of our martyrs is that they resuscitated a lost spirit to the Islamic nation and defeated the political and military theories that Israel could not be subdued in Lebanon," he said.

Occupied territories seethe with violent Palestinian protests

30 Arabs shot and wounded or beaten up

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Palestinians intensified violent anti-occupation protests on Sunday for the fifth day running and Israeli soldiers shot and wounded or beat up at least 30 Arab demonstrators in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, reports from the occupied territories said.

The protests, which have claimed eight lives and resulted in scores of injuries since last Wednesday, was described by Israeli commentators as some of the worst since a wave of protests against Israel's expulsion of two West Bank mayors in 1980-1981. Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat accused the Israeli cabinet of planning the current wave of violence which he said killed 23 Arabs and injured 210 others.

British Broadcasting Corporation. Mr. Arafat called on the United Nations Security Council "to condemn this organised official terrorism from this Israeli military junta and to find the ways and the means how to protect our people."

The Israeli prime minister, Yitzhak Shamir, and his 24-member cabinet discussed the protests for more than one hour Sunday. Mr.

'Israel covering up massacres'

BAGHDAD (R) — A senior PLO official said on Sunday Israel was covering up the Palestinian casualty toll from five days of violent protests in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. Bassam Abu Sherif, an adviser to PLO chief Yasser Arafat, said the PLO had asked the International Committee of the Red Cross to send representatives to investigate what he described as massacres by Israeli troops. He told Reuters that he had names of 30 Palestinians wounded in violence on Sunday, but he was certain that the list was incomplete.

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Protesters raise the Palestinian flag and hurl rocks and bottles at Israeli soldiers in Nablus on Saturday

OIC condemns Israeli practices and appeals for U.N. intervention

By Najwa Najjar
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The secretary-general of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) on Sunday strongly condemned Israeli measures against Palestinians in the occupied territories and called on the international community to shoulder its responsibility to ensure that the rights of the Palestinian people to seek liberation are not trampled upon by the occupation forces.

"We salute the brave struggle of the Palestinian people against the occupation," said Sharifuddin Pirzada. "We also deeply grieve their losses and send our heartfelt condolences to them," he said in an interview with the Jordan Times. The OIC secretary-general, who was in Amman for talks on preparations for a meeting of OIC foreign ministers to be held here in next March, was referring to the violent protests raging in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza. At least eight Palestinian protesters, including women and children, have been shot dead by Israeli soldiers since last Wednesday.

A formal statement issued by the OIC headquarters in Jeddah on Sunday urged the United Nations to intervene to protect Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

It called on the United Nations and all "peace-loving forces to respond to their moral and legal responsibility towards the Palestinian people."

The statement, excerpts of which were carried by Reuters, condemned "the Zionist terrorist aggression against the people of Palestine in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, as well as in the Palestinian refugee camps in South Lebanon."

The OIC statement urged the



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, confers with Organisation of Islamic Conference Secretary-General Sharifuddin Pirzada on Sunday (Petra photo)

United Nations to help to secure the release of Palestinian journalist Radwan Abu Ayyas.

The statement also called for the release of another Palestinian held without trial, Faisal Hussein of Jerusalem. It said both men were arrested without justification.

In his interview with the Jordan Times, Mr. Pirzada rejected Israeli contentions equating the Palestinian struggle with terrorism and said: "We condemn terrorism but a national liberation struggle is different. In fact, terrorism is manifested in the practices adopted by Israel and South Africa. We support the national liberation struggle of Palestinians and black South Africans since both people are trying to secure their right to self-determination," he said.

Mr. Pirzada was received by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan on Sunday. The foreign minister, Mr. Taher Al Masri, held talks with the OIC secretary-general on Saturday.

Mr. Pirzada, who left Amman later Sunday, also condemned Israel for rejecting international efforts for settling the Palestinian

(Continued on page 3)

His Majesty winds up Gulf visit in Oman

MUSCAT (Agencies) — His Majesty King Hussein arrived here Sunday on the last leg of a five-country visit to the Gulf for talks with the Arab leaders there on the current situation in the region, Arab affairs and developments since the Nov. 8-11 extraordinary Arab summit in Amman.

The King arrived here Sunday noon after talks in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Qatar earlier in the day and in Kuwait and Bahrain on Saturday.

Upon his arrival here, the King was received by Sultan Qaboos Ibn Sa'id and senior Omani officials as well as the Jordanian ambassador to Oman, Mr. Nayef Al Hadid. The King was accompanied by Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid, Armed Forces Chief of Staff Lieutenant-General Faizi Abu Taleh, Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, who accompanied the King on his visits to Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar and the UAE, flew home from Abu Dhabi on Sunday to attend the meetings of the Joint Jordanian-Iraqi Higher Committee which opens in Amman on Monday.

In Abu Dhabi and Doha earlier in the day, the King held talks with UAE President Sheikh Zayed Ibn Sultan Al Nahayan and Qatari Emir Sheikh Khalifa Ibn Hamad Al Thani. The talks dealt with developments in the Arab scene as well as the international level, efforts exerted by the U.N. to implement Security Council Resolution 598 calling for an immediate ceasefire in the Iran-Iraq war, follow-up work on the Amman summit resolutions and means to enhance Arab solidarity in the service of higher Arab interests, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported. Senior officials from both sides attended

the talks. The King held similar talks with the Emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, and the Emir of Bahrain, Sheikh Issa Ibn Salman Al Khalifa, during his visits to Kuwait and Bahrain on Saturday.

Diplomatic sources quoted by news agencies said the King was seeking to coordinate view with Gulf Arab leaders on the Gulf war and the Palestinian problem before flying to Britain and the Soviet Union for talks on these two issues with leaders in both countries.

Regent, Goulding discuss Mideast situation

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan on Sunday received at the Royal Court U.N. Undersecretary-General Marrack Goulding and discussed with him the latest developments in the Middle East and efforts for convening an international peace conference on the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said the Crown Prince and Mr. Goulding made a general review of the situation in the region and prospects towards holding the called-for international conference.

In the meeting, which was attended by Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri, Mr. Goulding voiced concern over the situation in the Israeli-occupied Arab territories, which is now rocked by unprecedented Palestinian protests against the occupation, and said the situation warranted extra efforts to find a solution to the problem.

Mr. Goulding left Amman later Sunday. Earlier, in an interview with AP, Mr. Goulding said that despite problems confronting efforts for an international peace conference on the Arab-Israeli conflict he had seen some encouraging signs.

"I would say there are great difficulties in the way of an international conference, but the cause is not lost and we must all go on trying," AP quoted Mr. Goulding as saying.

Mr. Goulding has also visited Israel and Lebanon on his visit to the region.

Mr. Goulding told AP he was in the area "to take stock, see how people feel after" the extraordinary Arab summit held in Amman last month.

Mr. Goulding noted that the U.N. General Assembly twice voted in favour of an international peace conference on the Middle East in the past two weeks, showing "there are a large number of countries, an overwhelming majority, that support the idea of an international conference."

"The Israeli government is divided," Mr. Goulding added, "but there are very important parts of the body politic in Israel which favour an international conference."

He said he was also encouraged by remarks attributed to U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy. The American official said Saturday that Washington had been trying for three years to create a mutually acceptable structure for an international peace conference, and said, "we will keep plugging away."

Israel's prime minister, Yitzhak Shamir, opposes any international conference, while his foreign minister, Shimon Peres, and the United States have expressed conditional endorsement of the general idea, so long as it leads to direct Arab-Israeli talks.

King: No talks with Israel outside peace conference

His Majesty confirms rejecting offer of U.S. meeting

- Palestine remains at the centre of Arab concern
- It is inevitable that Syria-Egypt ties will be resumed
- Jordan to urge Soviets to tackle issues of Mideast

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer with agency despatches

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein said in remarks published on Sunday he rejected an offer of talks with Israeli leaders to parallel last week's superpower summit.

The King told Beirut's Al Safir newspaper a suggestion was relayed to him to meet Israeli officials "on the peripheries" of the American-Soviet talks.

Al Safir said it spoke to the King in Amman before His Majesty started a five-nation Gulf tour on Saturday to follow up last month's Arab summit in Amman. Excerpts from the interview were carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

"The suggestion was to hold a Jordanian-Israeli summit on the peripheries of the summit between the two superpowers," the

King said. "It was natural for us to reject it because for us it is not an alternative to the international peace conference we are seeking with the participation of all concerned parties and the five permanent members of the Security Council," he said.

The King said he also rejected the idea because the talks "would have discussed, as it was suggested to us, temporary measures and not an overall peace solution."

In reply to a question on whether the Arabs are now shifting their attention to other issues rather than the Arab-Israeli conflict, the King said that it was not true. "The Palestine question is at the centre of our concern and I believe that the Palestine problem was discussed in detail at the Amman summit where the Arab



leaders agreed on unifying their stands on this and on other issues," King Hussein said.

Asked on reports about the formation of a Jordanian-Syrian-Algerian-Lebanese committee to follow up efforts for ending the

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Cabinet endorses committee minutes

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet met on Sunday under the chairmanship of Deputy Prime Minister Abdul Wahab Al Majali and endorsed the minutes of the Joint Jordanian-Egyptian Higher Committee meetings held in Cairo earlier this month.

The joint committee ended the two-day meeting by agreeing to sign a charter trade agreement later this month. The charter deal provides for Jordan to sell Egyptian cement, raw materials for detergents, wool, and glass, and buy Egyptian rice, cotton and ammonia nitrate.

The charter deal was part of the two countries' agreement on promoting bilateral economic and trade ties.

In the field of industry, the two sides decided to set up work teams to meet in Cairo and Amman alternately to decide on steps to be taken for coordinating joint industrial schemes and programmes. They agreed to exchange information and expertise on industrial production issues and coordinate their work in joint industrial projects.

In planning, the two sides decided to coordinate their programmes in promoting the skills and efficiency of personnel involved in carrying out projects in rural regions of Egypt and Jordan, and Egypt gave approval for training Jordanians in planning at its institute for planning.

In agriculture, the two sides decided to facilitate the work of the joint holding company to help it set up a fisheries company in Egypt and set up a fodder processing plant and carry out a sheep fattening centre in Jordan. Egypt and Jordan will finalise a feasibility study for setting up a company to produce seeds and will exchange expertise and information related to farm equipment, agri-

cultural extension and training. In the field of energy, oil and mining the higher committee emphasised the two countries' determination to follow up plans for coordinating their electric power production and setting up a laboratory to test electrical appliances.

In the field of transport, the committee decided on steps to promote land and sea transport, specially through the Aqaba-Nuweiba land-sea route and to follow up work with Iraq on the implementation of measures related to the Arab Maritime Bridge Company which has a \$6 million capital and involves Iraq, Jordan and Egypt.

In air transport, civil aviation authorities will hold meetings in the coming two months to discuss new air transport agreements.

In education and cultural fields the committee said that the two countries would offer each other seats for their students at higher institutes of learning, and will increase scholarships offered to students of both countries.

In information, the two countries will cooperate in exchanging radio and television programmes, news by their respective news agencies, publications, films and other information material and will offer facilities for the press from both countries.

In health, Jordan and Egypt will conduct studies to set up a joint company for producing medicine and decided that a special joint team would meet in three months time to work on the project. The health ministers of Egypt and Jordan will meet to discuss cooperation in the exchange of expertise in health and amending laws that can facilitate the exchange of drugs between the two countries.

Accord eludes OPEC

VIENNA (Agencies) — OPEC struggled Sunday to settle the final details of an oil price and production pact. One oil minister said the group might have to rework its tentative accord.

The 13 oil ministers earlier said they planned to ratify the tentative agreement reached Saturday to retain an oil price of \$18 a barrel.

But Sunday evening, the Gabon minister said the OPEC leadership had become worried that the international oil market would not consider the prospective accord credible.

Analysts had said after hearing of the tentative deal that it would lead to an immediate decline in world oil prices by as much as \$2 a barrel.

Etienne Guy Tchiboba of Gabon said the deal was virtually set Saturday when a debate broke out over how long the accord should last. Some wanted the \$18 price to be kept through 1988; others wanted to review it during the year, he said.

Then, according to Mr. Tchiboba, some ministers, whom he did not identify, raised concerns that the deal would not result in a lower production level. "We realised that the ceiling (production level) was not credible for the market," he said.

Mr. Tchiboba said it was unclear how the meeting would proceed, but that it was almost certain the ministers would have to meet again Monday.

Earlier, OPEC President Rijwan Lukman said he did not know when all 13 ministers would be ready to hold a full meeting.

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Ousted president warns Aden of violent backlash over death sentences

SANAA (Agencies) — The ousted South Yemeni president, Ali Nasser Mohammad, warned on Sunday of a violent backlash after an Aden court passed death sentences on him and 34 former top aides.

"We are sure the reaction of our friends (in South Yemen) will be violent," he told reporters in the North Yemeni capital of Sanaa. But he said he did not want war to engulf the two states.

The court in Aden, capital of South Yemen, announced the sentences on Saturday after a year-long trial of 108 people, 44 in their absence, on treason charges.

"It is a catastrophe for the Yemeni people," said Mr. Nasser Mohammad, who fled to the north after he was overthrown in bloody street fighting in January, 1986. "The people are against these crimes."

He said efforts were being made to secure the detainees release and win a stay of execution. He believed North Yemen's President Ali Abdullah Saleh would ask the Soviet Union to persuade South Yemen to reconsider the verdicts.

But he was pessimistic over prospects for success. "There are too many centres of power and no single leader to make the decision," he said.

North Yemen's Foreign Affairs Minister and Deputy Prime Minister Abdul Karim Al Iryani

described the court's decision as a political setback.

"Disappointment is a fact we cannot deny but to say this will raise tension in military terms, well, I don't think so," Mr. Iryani said.

President Saleh earlier this week called on the government of South Yemen to drop the case against Mr. Nasser Mohammad.

"The sentences were harsher than anyone expected," Mr. Iryani told reporters.

Mr. Iryani appealed to the Soviet Union and other nations to try to save the lives of the 16 people before the court who were sentenced to death.

Countries with high-level links with Aden, including the Soviet Union, have a particularly important role to play, he added.

Mr. Iryani said the sentences were political.

"Some of them (the accused) were involved in acts of violence... some of those sitting in judgement were involved too. That makes it political," he said.

A spokesman for Mr. Nasser Mohammad said the former president had sent messages to Arab and world leaders and organisations appealing for their media-

tion with Aden to prevent the execution of those sentenced to death.

Former air force chief Ahmad Hussein Mussa was among 16 people who appeared in court and were sentenced to death. It was not known when they would face a firing squad. The verdict has still to be ratified by President Haider Abu Baker Al Aitah.

Among those sentenced to death were former navy chief Abdullah Ahmad Al Hussein and former Interior Minister Mohammad Abdullah Al Botani. They fled the country after the fighting in which the court said 4,300 people were killed.

Some of the accused were also charged with terrorism and sabotage.

The court granted an amnesty to five fugitives, and found six defendants who appeared in court not guilty. Charges against one former official were dropped after he died in jail.

The others — including Mr. Nasser Mohammad's power, education and information ministers — drew jail sentences ranging from five to 15 years.

Several Aden officials defected to North Yemen in the last few weeks to protest at the trial. Three lawyers from the London-based human rights organisation Amnesty International visited South Yemen last October.

Iran seen using new incendiary weapon against tankers in Gulf

DUBAI (R) — Iran is using a new weapon or projectile to torch tankers in the Gulf, regional shipping sources said on Sunday.

They said Iranian gunboats used either a new weapon or fired a new kind of incendiary projectile from weapons already in use to spark the spectacular fires which enveloped two tankers last week, sinking one.

"In the past, projectiles fired by the Iranians caused only small holes in the ships and small fires which the crew on board could extinguish, usually with no help from firefighting tugs," said a shipping agent.

"Whatever hit the Norman Atlantic and the Pivot caused devastating fires," he added.

"We suspect a new projectile, some kind of incendiary with phosphorus perhaps, which turns the ships into torches."

A huge blaze on the 232,164-tonne Cypriot supertanker Pivot, following an Iranian attack on Saturday, forced most of the 44-member crew to abandon ship.

It took four firefighting tugs several hours to contain the fire.

the smoke from which could be seen 50 kilometres away in Dubai.

The attack on the Pivot, a retaliatory raid for Iraqi attacks on Iranian tankers, followed the sinking of the 85,129-tonne Singapore naphtha carrier Norman Atlantic on Thursday at the entrance of the Strait of Hormuz.

The ship sank after burning for four days following an attack by Iranian gunboats as it left the Gulf for Japan with a load of Kuwaiti naphtha.

The flames were so intense, reaching temperatures of 3,000 degrees Centigrade and visible at night from 80 kilometres away, that firefighting tugs were forced to flee the ship and let it sink.

The Norman Atlantic was the first tanker to be sunk in the tanker war, which in 1981 grew out of the Iran-Iraq ground conflict and moved into high gear three years ago.

The sources said Iran's decision to upgrade its anti-ship weapons could be a reaction to the presence of Western navies in the Gulf, a move bitterly criticised

by Tehran.

"Attacks have already increased since the Americans and West Europeans arrived in force last summer," said one source.

"Now it appears the Iranians plan to increase the amount of damage caused to ships they attack."

Another source said: "If the Iranians are using a new weapon and if we are going to have more Norman Atlantics and Pivots it is going to become most uncomfortable for merchant seamen."

There were casualties aboard the Norman Atlantic and only one crewman aboard the Pivot suffered burns.

A total 155 vessels have been attacked in the Gulf this year, more than a third of the 420 hit since 1981.

"So far ships hit have not sustained heavy damage or casualties in most cases," said a shipper.

"That will change if fires like those which razed the Pivot and Norman Atlantic are to become the norm," he added.

Death toll rises to 64 in Egyptian tragedy

CAIRO (Agencies) — The death toll from a bus-train collision rose to 64 on Sunday, security sources said. Messages of condolences from a number of Arab countries poured in and the government launched an investigation into Friday night's accident.

The initial count of 57 dead increased to 60 late Saturday, and to 63 overnight. One more child died later Sunday, said Assistant Prosecutor Diaa Shafei, responsible for registering the casualties.

He said only two among the dead remained unidentified, mutilated beyond recognition.

"Some of the injured are doing better," said Ahmad Maher, director of Heliopolis Hospital, one of the two which took in most of the casualties. Many of the 67 survivors were transferred to intensive care units in specialised hospitals across the capital, state-run daily Al-Ahram said.

Daily papers continued to carry front-page headlines of the crash two days after the event that occurred when a train rammed into a bus crowded with children and teachers back from a picnic. Inside pages showed pictures of grieving family members and children receiving intensive-care treatment.

King Hussein expressed his sympathies in a telephone call to President Hosni Mubarak, and Saudi Arabia's King Fahd sent him a cable of condolences in the name of the people and government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Al-Ahram said.

The state-run Middle East News Agency (MENA) from Kuwait said that Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah sent a message of condolences to Mr. Mubarak.

Parliament Speaker Rifaat Al Mahgoub opened Sunday's meeting with a statement of grief, and parliament members directed a number of questions on the accident to Minister of Transport Suleiman Metwally, MENA said.

Criticising the absence of markings at the railway crossing, opposition Labour Party member Magdi Ahmad said "the accident happened because of gross neglect."

"It is not enough to say the crossing was not a proper one. We must have a (better) crossing whatever the cost," he said.

A cabinet statement said the crossing was near another marked one, and should have been avoided.

Witnesses reportedly blamed the bus driver because the crossing was not for use by large vehicles. They said a dirt road led to it, and only pedestrians and small cars used that route.

Prime Minister Atef Sedki and several other cabinet members have visited the village of Kafr Abu Sir on Cairo's northeastern fringes to comfort bereaved families. Mr. Mubarak's wife, Suzanne, made a round of the two hospitals that took in most of the cases and gave instructions to mobilise medical and social efforts for the care of the victims, MENA said.

Police initially said that 150 children were packed into the bus which was designed to carry 42 people. Education Minister Fathi Sorour told reporters school officials would be disciplined for allowing too many children on the vehicle.

As doctors in two hospitals worked round the clock to save the injured on the critical list, investigators sought clues to the crash from the few who survived and began interrogating the train driver.

Police said preliminary investigations showed the bus driver, who was killed, was to blame.

The children were returning home to Kafr Ash Shurafa village, 25 kilometres northeast of Cairo from a weekend excursion to a zoo and the Giza pyramids.

Walters: Soviet Union and China are close to voting Iran arms embargo

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — U.S. Ambassador Vernon Walters says the Soviet Union and China, initially opposed to an arms embargo against Iran, are losing patience and may be close to voting for a weapons ban to enforce a U.N. peace plan.

"I think they (the Soviet Union) and China are close to it," General Walters said during the taping of WABC's eyewitness news conference to be televised Sunday. "They told us they would go along with an arms embargo if Iran continues to defy the Security Council" ceasefire call.

"My feeling is that their patience is running out and they realise they have been given a runaround by the Iranians," Gen. Walters said in answer to a question.

Iran has said it would comply with the Security Council's July 20 ceasefire resolution, but Iran has raised objections and set out new conditions.

Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar told the 15-member

Security Council on Thursday that it should take stern action against Tehran.

"The secretary-general indicated he felt we were being given the runaround by the Iranians," Gen. Walters said. He added that the United States strongly believes it is time to start work on a second Security Council resolution to enforce the first one.

The United States has been pushing for an arms embargo against Tehran, but the Soviet Union and China had said an embargo was premature and argued that diplomacy should be given more time.

Gen. Walters said the resolution marked the first time in history that the Security Council's five permanent members — the United States, the Soviet Union, China, Britain and France — were in agreement. He called such unity, extending to the non-permanent members, "the strongest weapon we have" and "the heaviest weight on the Iranians."

"For the first time, it became

impossible to play East off against West," Gen. Walters said, but added that the price for that unity has been time in taking enforcement steps.

The U.S. envoy called Iranian diplomacy "remarkable... better than Lenin who said you must take a step backward in order to take two forward."

"The Iranians have discovered how to take one step forward in order to take two backward," he said. "So after two days, you are negotiating tomorrow to bring them back to where they were yesterday."

Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati said Saturday that the deadline in U.N. efforts to mediate an end to the Gulf war means Iran must continue fighting Iraq.

"We want this war to finish with the punishment of the aggressor," Mr. Velayati told a news conference in Islamabad, Pakistan. "Without the punishment of the aggressor, there will be no guarantee for the future of the region."

Orthodox Jews keep up protests in Jerusalem

TEL AVIV (AP) — Police have arrested four stone-throwing orthodox protesters and dispersed others with tear-gas grenades and water cannons, in occupied Jerusalem, a spokesman said.

Police spokesman Rafi Levy said the protesters blocked traffic on Bar Ilan street, linking the main entrance to Jerusalem with the city's northern neighbourhoods, and threw stones at passing cars.

Israel Radio said orthodox Jews also hurled a metal frame from one of the rooftops, aiming at the policemen below and barely missing their target. Levy said he was not informed about the incident.

The demonstration was to protest film screenings on the Jewish Sabbath.

Levy said another group of black-garbed orthodox demonstrators hurled stones at motorists from a hill overlooking the main road that leads to the neighbourhood of Ramot.

He said police used water cannons and fired tear-gas grenades at the orthodox Jews, and then moved in to arrest four of them.

The orthodox Jews have held protests almost every Saturday since August, when movie theatres began screening films on Friday nights.

Kuwait hails superpower summit, urges solutions to Mideast problems

KUWAIT (AP) — Kuwait hailed Sunday the U.S.-Soviet missile agreement signed last week but said the summit between President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev would be viewed as a success only if it helped resolve the Gulf war and the Palestinian problem.

"Such superpower summits are fruitful if they contribute to solving regional problems," Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Rashed Abdul Aziz Al Rasheed told reporters after the weekly government session.

"Third World countries... hope that their problems have not been forgotten because... these issues

will have repercussions on the international community," Mr. Rashed said.

"The superpowers and the U.N. Security Council should play a role in solving these problems," he said.

"We in this part of the world have our own problems which we believe should be given priority, be it the ongoing Iran-Iraq war, to which we call for a speedy solution, or the Palestine question," he added.

But he lauded the signing of the agreement eliminating intermediate-range missiles for "opening a new door" towards easing international tension.

Newly-elected Turkish parliament meets today

ANKARA (R) — Turkey enters a new phase in its drive for democratic progress when parliament convenes on Monday after the first election free of army influence since 1980.

Nearly 400 of the 450 deputies due to take the oath of office are untainted by the political chaos and street violence of the late 1970s which led to three years of military rule.

The Nov. 29 poll gave conservative Prime Minister Turgut Ozal's Motherland Party 392 seats for a second five-year mandate following a campaign pledge to maintain political stability.

Formation of the new parliament is widely seen as a sign that Turkey wants to distance itself from a tumultuous past and look ahead to more freedom and

prosperity.

President Kenan Evren, who as a general led the coup, will set the scene for the new parliament in a keynote address on Monday likely to spell out guidelines for democratic reform.

Mr. Ozal, home after eye surgery and bank talks in the United States, will face a strengthened opposition ready to attack on issues ranging from economic policy to the electoral system.

Economic adjustments, including a delayed 1988 budget, a possible Turkey-Greece rapprochement and planned changes to the constitution are expected to dominate early debates.

Proceedings will be closely monitored by European Community (EC) members with reser-

vations about democratic progress in Turkey, a NATO member which has applied to join the group.

Mr. Ozal, enjoying the longest unbroken spell of premiership since 1960, sees closer E.C. links as the only way for predominantly Muslim Turkey to prosper.

He has pledged to continue free-market economic policies under a new cabinet expected to be announced this month.

The opposition plans major challenges on economic policy, which has liberalised imports and sent exports soaring since 1983 but forced up inflation to around 42 per cent.

Political sources said the opposition was also likely to seek changes to the complex electoral

system, partly devised by Mr. Ozal's party, which prevented four parties from taking seats.

Main opposition leader Erdal Inonu fired an early salvo by saying government moves such as price rises of up to 100 per cent announced since the poll to curb the budget deficit could lead to "social explosions and revolts."

Mr. Inonu's Social Democrat Populist Party (SHP) has 99 seats, compared with 54 to the Motherland's 249 in the old 400-seat chamber. The centre-right True Path Party (TPP) increased its representation to 59 from 45.

Mr. Inonu and TPP leader Suleyman Demirel, a four-time premier twice ousted by coups, led campaign attacks on the economy.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION	20:00 Evening Show
Tel. 7711-19	21:00 News Summary
	21:05 Evening Show Cont'd
	22:00 News Summary
PROGRAMME ONE	22:05 Evening Show Continued
18:30 Jordan	23:00 News Summary
18:45 Jordan	23:05 Evening Show Continued
18:55 Jordan	24:00 Close Down

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PROGRAMME TWO	22:15 Close down
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A parity on 99.1 KHz. SW	
Tel. 7711-19	

07:00 Light Music	
07:30 Newsdesk	
08:00 Morning Show	
08:30 News Summary	
09:00 Newsdesk	
09:30 Newsdesk	
10:00 Newsdesk	
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English News & Features 20:00 News	
20:10 Newsline 20:30 Music USA	
20:40 News 21:00 Newsline 21:10	
Music USA Jazz 22:00 News 22:10	
World Report	

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS	
EXHIBITIONS	
• "Documenta" — art exhibition at the Goethe Institute (until Dec. 25)	
• An exhibition of paintings by Ahmad Na'wash at the Abu Art Gallery - Jabbal Amman (until Dec. 20).	

FILMS	
• Spanish film, entitled "Roads de Caceres" at 4 p.m. at the Spanish Cultural Centre.	
• "White Christmas" feature film at 7:00 p.m.	

VIDEO	
• Video Sciences "La negligence des hommes" at 4 p.m. at the French Cultural Centre.	

CULTURAL CENTRES	
Royal Cultural Centre - Tel. 6910267	
American Centre - Tel. 644371	
British Council - Tel. 6301478	
French Cultural Centre - Tel. 641993	
Goethe Institute - Tel. 641993	
Soviet Cultural Centre - Tel. 642030	
Spanish Cultural Centre - Tel. 642030	
Turkish Cultural Centre - Tel. 642030	
Haya Arts Centre - Tel. 642030	
Husseini Youth City - Tel. 642030	
Y.W.C.A. - Tel. 642030	
Amman Municipal Library - Tel. 642030	
Univ. of Jordan Library - Tel. 642030	

MUSEUMS	
"Children's Heritage and Science Museum" Fun and knowledge for all ages, plus a small planetarium at the Haya Arts Centre. Open all week 9 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed on Friday.	
Folklore Museum: Jewellery and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (14th to 19th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 642030.	
Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the anti-	

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT	
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (081) 532043, where it should always be verified.	

ARRIVALS	
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FOR THE TRAVELLER

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Panel to evaluate role of social development centres

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma, chairman of the board of trustees of the Queen Alia Jordan Social Welfare Fund (QAJSWF) today inaugurates a three-day symposium on evaluating social development centres in Jordan.

The symposium, organised by the QAJSWF in cooperation with the West German Organisation Konrad Adenauer, aims at briefing participants on the programmes and services provided by social development centres throughout the Kingdom and at assessing public contributions to these centres.

The symposium also aims to shed light on the ability of the centres to mobilise local leadership and encourage people to contribute to development programmes, in addition to studying the problems and obstacles facing the centres.

The meeting will also address the needs of local communities,

so that future programmes can be designed to improve the performance of these centres and to ensure coordination among them within the framework of the current social and economic development plan.

The symposium will discuss three working papers prepared by social development experts on the outcome of a field study which covered 31 centres throughout the Kingdom. The study was intended to evaluate and to develop the future outlook of their role.

Taking part in the symposium are 50 participants representing various ministries and universities, as well as directors of social development departments. Also participating are representatives of the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS), the Urban Development Department (UDD) and a number of specialised charitable societies.

APU memo to Fayez urges stronger Afro-Arab links

AMMAN (Petra) — Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Akef Al Fayez, who is also Speaker of the Arab Parliamentary Union (APU) on Sunday received a memo from the APU general secretary on the Zionist penetration in Africa.

The memo reviewed the geographic, historical, cultural and economic ties between the Arab Nation and Africa and noted that these ties have been enhanced by the fact that eight Arab countries are located in the African continent and that six of them are members in both the APU and the Federation of African parliaments.

Afro-Arab cooperation reached

its peak in 1967 when Israel attacked Arab countries, the memo said. The initial African reaction was encouraging, as nine African states consequently severed their relations with Israel. However, this figure grew to 29 in the aftermath of the Israeli aggression against Syria in October 1973.

The memo also called on Arab parliamentarians to work out an integrated plan designed to combat Zionist penetration in the African continent and enhance cooperation with the African states, as well as support these countries in countered challenges posed by the American and Israeli policies.

N. Yemeni team briefed

MADABA (Petra) — An educational team from North Yemen on Sunday visited Madaba and toured its schools, archaeological sites and other local places of interest.

The director of education in Madaba District, Mr. Deeb Majali, accompanied the team and

briefed them on the educational situation there and on plans for future development.

Later, Mr. Zaid Shami, the leader of the North Yemeni team said that the visit was in the framework of cooperation in educational affairs between North Yemen and Jordan.

King: No talks with Israel outside int'l conference

(Continued from page 1)

Lebanese crisis, the King said he knew nothing about such a committee. But he said that pan-Arab efforts were under way for resolving the Lebanese problem and Jordan had taken part in such efforts along with Algeria and "sincerely hopes that common ground will be found for establishing permanent peace and security in Lebanon."

"It should be said however that for the sake of arriving at an acceptable solution in Lebanon all Lebanese parties should offer compromises and should not display extremism in demands," the King noted.

He noted that he had separately met with Lebanese President Amin Gemayel and Prime Minister Salim Al Hoss and that contacts with other Lebanese leaders were continuing.

Asked on Jordan's mediation between Syria and Lebanon, the King said that Syria was entitled to play a major role in ending the strife in Lebanon and should be supported to play such a role.

The King denied that the Lebanese question did not acquire the Arab leaders' proper attention at the summit and said that the Lebanese question was discussed in full in the first two

days of the summit meeting and that a decision was made to help resolve Lebanon's economic problems through the Arab Monetary Fund and that it was left to individual Arab states to offer whatever bilateral help they could to Lebanon.

Asked whether the Amman summit discussed the question of Arab financial aid to Jordan and other confrontation states, the King said that this subject was not discussed since the meeting was called to examine means of bringing about a pan-Arab agreement and consensus on issues confronting the Arab Nation.

Asked to assess the outcome of the U.S.-Soviet summit meeting in Washington, King Hussein said that the summit focused attention on nuclear weapons rather than regional conflicts. He said he believed that regional issues should be given attention since they form a permanent source of unrest and cause for instability in the world at large. "We actually do not know when such questions will be discussed by the superpowers but in my coming visit to the Soviet Union I will urge the Soviet leaders to tackle the issues of the Middle East," King Hussein noted.

On the Gulf war, the King said that confronting Iran's threats to

RJ reviews past performance, future plans on eve of anniversary

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Royal Jordanian (RJ), the Kingdom's national carrier and ambassador of goodwill around the world, celebrates its 24th anniversary on Tuesday.

From a nucleus of propeller-driven dron Heralds and a DC 7, RJ has grown over the past two decades to become an international company serving 42 cities around the world with its fleet of 19 modern aircraft.

Today, on the eve of the airline's celebration day, Ali Ghandour, chairman of the RJ board and chief executive officer, will outline the company's present performance and future schemes to a large group of local and foreign journalists.

In his press conference, Mr. Ghandour, an aeronautical engineer, will also review the company's 1987 financial report, including the operating and non-operating profit, in addition to figures on RJ's total traffic performance, cargo handling, load factor, employee productivity and mail and excess baggage.

Based on the results of the first seven months, RJ officials forecast a net profit of JD 4 million, excluding foreign exchange profits and losses.

Reports on the company published recently by the Jordan Times quoted officials as saying that part of the profit would proceed from the sale to British Caledonian of one of the airline's two Boeing 747s. The remainder would derive from operating profit, projected at JD 1.3 million this year, and non-operating profit, mainly from handling services to foreign airlines flying to Jordan.

Royal Jordanian, which changed its name from Alia last December, took a net loss of JD 1.78 million, company figures show.

Passenger traffic rose slightly to 653,724 in the period January to July from 647,493 in the same period of 1986, while the seat factor rose to 6.3 per cent from 55.8, and load factor 4.4 per cent to 50.6 per cent. Passenger traffic

from the United States grew 13.3 per cent after a two-year drop. RJ also had a good growth of 11.5 per cent in traffic to the Far East.

The airline is gradually replacing its aging Boeing 707s and 727s with European airbuses. It currently has one Boeing 747, eight Lockheed TriStars, and two A 310 airbuses. The two airbuses are part of six similar aircraft due to be delivered to the company by 1990. One of the remaining four airbuses is expected to arrive in 1988; two others in 1989; and the last one in 1990.

With offices in 100 capitals throughout the world, RJ's new routes for 1988 are expected to include Montreal, New Delhi and Calcutta and possibly Rio de Janeiro via Africa.

Other destinations might include Manila and Jakarta, and extensions to Australia and Japan are under consideration.

On the occasion of the RJ's 24th anniversary, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, made a special report covering the company's history and development and assessing its role in supporting Jordan's economy, tourism and culture.

According to Petra, "RJ annually carries a total of two million passengers on board its aircraft and is making profits despite the difficult conditions currently prevailing in the worldwide airline transport industry."

Reviewing RJ's development, Petra said "one finds that the company is not merely an airline establishment. Rather, it is a symbol of national independence, in addition to its role in supporting the economy and serving as a bridge to link the Kingdom with the rest of the world."

The company's establishment in 1963 was an important turning point in the Kingdom's history of aviation, as it crowned 17 years of previous efforts to set up such an enterprise. Attempts to form the company started in 1946, and after a shaky period, the company was formed in 1963.

"Since its inception, Royal Jordanian has always served Jordan's economy. Its total participation in the Kingdom's gross

domestic product (GDP) stands at 3 per cent," Petra said.

RJ has also helped in establishing the Arab World's only executive jet charter company — Arab Wings — in 1975. The company is a joint project between RJ (64 per cent) and the government of Oman (36 per cent).

RJ's engine overhaul and maintenance division is one of the few of its kind in the Middle East and Far East and it offers its services to many airline companies in the Middle East.

In addition, RJ, in cooperation with Iraqi Airways, has founded the Arab Air Cargo Company, and the door remains open for the participation of other interested Arab aviation companies.

The Jordanian flagship has also helped the government of Sierra Leone to set up its national airline company by offering technical expertise and leasing to Sierra Leone one of the company's aircraft. It has also cooperated with the government of Sudan to organise the Sudanese airline company.

As for its contribution to the tourism industry in Jordan, RJ, highly dependent on the movement of tourism, has promoted Jordan's historical and archaeological attractions through its offices worldwide and through participation in international tourism exhibitions and conferences.

Publications issued by the company to promote Jordan's tourism potentials and sites are Royal Wings, an English-language magazine and Al Ajniha, an Arabic-language magazine. In addition, the company has its own folkloric troupe.

Symposium to discuss drug production and quality control

AMMAN (Petra) — A four-day symposium organised by the Arab Federation of Producers of Drugs and Medical Appliances begins today.

Dr. Subhi Tibi, member of the federation's board of directors and chairman of the symposium, told the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that the symposium will focus on a number of working papers on the objectives of the federation and the pharmaceutical industry in Jordan and the Arab World as a whole. Dr. Tibi said that participants in the meeting will discuss, specifically, drug control, packaging and storage according to the criteria followed by drug producers in Switzerland and the U.S.

Dr. Tibi noted that the symposium's recommendations will be presented to the Council of Arab Health Ministers for approval.

Taking part in the symposium are 128 participants, representing 12 Arab countries, in addition to experts from the World Health Organisation (WHO), the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO), the Swiss-based Drug Control Office, the Food and Drug Administration in the U.S. and a number of specialists from pan-Arab and regional organisations.

Conference tackles formation of new specialised Arab philosophy

By Nermeen Murad
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Arab philosophers met here on Sunday for the first session of a three-day conference tackling philosophical issues, 20th century schools of philosophy and the formation of an Arab philosophical society.

The Second Arab Conference on Philosophy was opened by Senator Akram Zu'aitar, deputising for His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan. In his opening address, Mr. Zu'aitar welcomed the Arab philosophers to Jordan, "the country in which roads meet and do not part, and in which thinkers discuss and do not argue even if they differ."

Prince Hassan said that the "strategic position of Jordan has ingrained in our souls, over the years, the belief in the relativity of knowledge and the integration of reality and taught us that centrism, or the middle ground, joins in its essence the important part of each side, leaving to extremism its vices."

The Crown Prince pointed out that in Arab-Islamic society "a belief in the limitation of abilities of an individual or a united nation or one age has spread. Our philosophers have insisted that reality in any field is not absolute; rather, it comes together over the ages, not through one individual but through the efforts of many people; not through the endeavours of one nation but through the united efforts of many nations."

Thus, he added, philosophers agreed that reality or truth will not come from one line of thought and that differences in opinion are a "godly blessing." Through these convictions, philosophers rid themselves of "narrow-minded sectarianism or fanaticism" and, instead, adopted different theories, and the endeavour of scientific discussion began.

Hence, "comments and counter-comments" were an indirect written dialogue between scholars and philosophers throughout the ages, the Crown Prince said. The Islamic caliphs and princes took good care of scientists and philosophers, paying tribute to the services they render to the society.

Today, the Crown Prince said, the Arab questions whether the thoughts and activities of the contemporary Arab intelligentsia stem from the reality of the society at large and the outlook of their nation, or if they follow a certain curriculum of thought or a line of thinking arrived at through comprehensive research, or whether their curricula stem from the research of other societies, based on thoughts and aspirations other than our own hopes and aims. "To what extent do our philosophers understand their science and to what extent is there a rational debate among them?" Prince Hassan asked.

The Crown Prince concluded his speech by pointing out that "the eyes of the intellectuals of our nation are currently pivoting on this conference and are awaiting its debates, discussions and recommendations. I hope that you will not fail them," he said to the philosophers gathered at the conference.

University of Jordan President Abdul Salam Al Majali also welcomed the participants, saying that "the problems facing the world today — some which threaten culture and humanity and others which arouse in the human soul anxiety and fear — make it imperative for philosophers, doctors and intellectuals to direct the results of our science towards eliminating the causes of danger." He stressed that this would not be achieved except by understanding the relationship between science and reality and through constructive research into ideas and aims.

Dr. Majali also told Arab philosophers that they must be aware of recurrent attempts by certain Western intellectuals to create doubts over the authenticity of Islamic and Arab philosophy. He said this was an indication of their denial of the abilities of the Arab mind to excel and invent; therefore, he added,

Arab philosophers should, through this conference, find and establish a separate, specialised Arab philosophy, carrying its own individual personality, with a solid basis which stem from the reality of our sociology, psychology and ideologies.

"This philosophy should join past with present and should be an image of the beliefs of our nation, its history, aspirations and its reality," Dr. Majali said, adding that only through a new authentic Arab philosophy could philosophers endeavour to "build the new Arab mind and the new Arab."

But, Dr. Majali emphasised that building a new Arab philosophy should not divert Arab society from being a part of the philosophy which deals with current issues and thoughts, and that we should walk hand in hand with all that is new in this science. He said that we should not let a chance to learn and exchange ideas bypass us, so we do not fall into the pit of fanaticism nor stand still while the world around us is moving.

At the beginning of the conference, the vice-dean of the Faculty of Arts at the University of Jordan and president of the preparatory committee for the conference, Ahmad Madi, gave a general introduction to the conference, pointing out that it was considered to be the first united effort between the University of Jordan and the Arab Unity Research Centre. He expressed hope that this type of cooperation would continue to contribute to the growth of the Arab cultural movement.

Dr. Madi also called for the establishment of a society for Arab philosophers, which would work towards uniting their efforts. The society would hold specialised meetings and conferences to study and solve current Arab and Islamic philosophical problems, as well as publish a magazine aimed at spreading philosophical thought, particularly the study of reality in the Arab Nation.

Attending the opening session on Sunday were Minister of Planning Dr. Taher Kanaan and a number of government officials, in addition to deans and professors from the University of Jordan.

Irbid holds municipal elections today

IRBID (J.T.) — Irbid residents will cast their votes today to elect nine members to serve in the municipal council for the next four years.

A total of 37,500 people, out of an estimated population of 150,000, have registered for voting in the election, contested for by 18 candidates grouped into two separate blocs.

According to the Department of Statistics, nearly 55 per cent of Irbid's population is under 18 years old and, therefore, ineligible to vote. The total number of eligible is nearly 69,000.

Local authorities said on Sunday that voters will be casting ballots at 53 different polling stations around the city of Irbid, and that 28 committees have been formed to count the votes under the supervision of judges from Irbid Governorate.

Irbid Mayor Abdul Razzak Tubeishat, who has already served for two successive terms,

leads the "Cooperative Bloc," while Sami Ershaidat, the municipality's chief engineer, leads the "Reform Bloc."

Interviewed on the eve of the election by Al Rai Arabic daily, Dr. Tubeishat said he hopes to succeed for a third time, in order to complete the work that has been started over the past years. "My bloc's plans include programmes for mending roads in Irbid, building public gardens and libraries and creating social, sports and youth clubs," Dr. Tubeishat said. Dr. Tubeishat admitted that his council has not been able to carry out its programmes in full in past years for reasons beyond its control. One of the plans that should have been implemented involved mov-

ing all the brick and stone factories which are scattered around the city and within the residential districts to an area outside Irbid, he said.

Mr. Ershaidat for his part, said that he had served 22 years as engineer for Irbid Municipality and has come to realise the needs and the demands of the local population. He said his bloc plans to tackle the prospects of creating a terminal for trucks outside the city and maintaining small handicraft and light industrial plants within the city.

Participating in the election are: Mr. Sami Ershaidat, Chief Engineer, Municipality; Mr. Abdul Razzak Tubeishat, Mayor; Mr. Ahmad Madi, Vice Dean, Faculty of Arts, University of Jordan; and Mr. Zaid Shami, Chairman, North Yemeni Delegation.

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Arabs keep up violent protests

(Continued from page 1)

Shamir claimed the situation was under control and denied suggestions that a civil rebellion was taking place.

The Palestine Press Service listed names, ages and injuries of 27 Arabs who were treated in Shifa hospital after being hurt in demonstrations in Gaza. It said 17 Palestinians were injured by army gunfire, most in the hands or feet, and six others had been beaten by soldiers.

Shifa officials said three were in serious condition and had been transferred to other hospitals.

Hugh Schofield, a reporter for BBC radio, said he saw about 30 soldiers break into the Shifa hospital compound in Gaza City and beat Arabs who were throwing stones. He said one soldier fired rubber pellets inside the hospital's main building.

In the West Bank town of Hebron, two Palestinian students

were injured. Israel Radio said Arab protesters threw stones at an Israeli bus carrying a number of soldiers, three of whom were injured by flying glass. The soldiers chased the stone-throwers and two Arabs were shot.

Army spokesman said five Arabs were wounded, four in Gaza and one in Hebron. An Israeli soundman working for a foreign TV network was hospitalised with facial injuries after being stoned in Gaza.

Commercial strikes were reported in the West Bank towns of Ramallah and Nablus. Soldiers lifted and then reimposed a curfew on the Balata refugee camp near Nablus, where four Arabs were killed, including two 11-year-old boys, on Friday.

Palestinian sources said nearly all shopkeepers closed their stores in Gaza, Nablus and Ramallah.

OIC condemns Israeli actions

(Continued from page 1)

cause and work towards liberating the occupied territories and Jerusalem.

"We cooperate with various international organisations towards achieving the goal of liberating (the occupied territories) and the holy places" under Israeli control, he said. "The Security Council is often our only option since Israel is well entrenched and continues to reject any move towards peace," he said.

He noted that the proposal for an international conference on the Middle East enjoys the backing of the U.N. General Assembly. "The trouble is that Israel, with backing from the U.S., has rejected (the General Assembly) resolution," he pointed out.

Mr. Pirzada believes that the superpowers are casting on the Arab World's lack of unity. Referring to the recent superpower summit, Mr. Pirzada said the

results were welcome steps to the extent that they eliminated a class of nuclear weapons. "However, we saw no tangible results achieved on the Middle East, the Gulf war nor Afghanistan," he said.

The scheduled meeting of OIC foreign ministers in March was discussed by Mr. Pirzada and Crown Prince Hassan on Sunday. Mr. Pirzada said that the main issues on the agenda for the meeting would be the Gulf war, the Palestinian problem, Afghanistan, problems in African countries and cooperation among Islamic countries.

An invitation will be sent to Iran and the necessary efforts will be made to induce the Iranians to participate, he said. "Usually they (the Iranians) attend the meeting of foreign ministers which is held annually," he said. Iran did not attend the last OIC summit, held in Kuwait.

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Straining against the shackles

BY all counts, published and unpublished, what is going on in the Israeli-occupied territories, particularly in Gaza, cannot be considered as one of the regular, slight spasms in the Palestinian struggle against Israel. While a resounding reminder of the fact that the Palestinians are no longer afraid of Israeli bullets, the violent demonstrations in the occupied lands also show that the situation has grown into head-on clash; and, given the right momentum, it could explode into something that no occupying power could ever hope to quell. Time and time again, the occupation forces have rejected all moves towards peace, adding fuel to Palestinian frustration and anger. At the same time, the Palestinians have received very little practical help from the outside. Living under circumstances too bearable for most to endure and seeing that little hope is offered from outside, the Palestinians appear to have realised and accepted that the solution to their problem must be initiated from within their own ranks, and that the first step towards that end is to make the territories ungovernable for the Israelis. To them, demonstrations, strikes or the throwing of a single stone, are better than waiting for a solution which may never materialise. Their acts of demonstrations and violent protest move them along the way to making the occupied territories a hotbed, that could prove to be the spark which ignites in Israel's face.

Despite the censorship applied in the occupied territories, it is apparent that the real battle is the battle of the people. The iron is hot, now, and it is time for the Arabs to use this opportunity to apply pressure through all means available. Diplomatic leverage must be used. Support — moral and financial — must be extended to our Palestinian brothers and sisters to maintain their steadfastness. Moreover, it is the responsibility of the Arab countries to assist the Palestinians in stepping up the momentum of their active struggle.

We salute the Palestinians for their recent efforts in resisting the Israeli oppressor and hope that these episodes continue to prove that the Palestinians possess the power to ignite the spark of their liberation.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: King campaigns for Arab solidarity

KING Hussein on Saturday continued his moves on the pan-Arab front by embarking on a tour of Arab Gulf states for talks with their leaders on ways of enhancing the outcome and the resolutions of the Amman summit. The talks with the Arab leaders cover the situation in the Gulf which was tackled by the summit held here last month, and which succeeded in bringing about agreement and consensus among Arab states on various important issues confronting them at present. The current tour is designed to corroborate the resolutions taken at the summit and enhance the drive towards safeguarding Arab security and protecting Arab homeland from external aggression. The implementation of the Amman summit resolutions would be a translation of the will of Arab leaders into practice, something which would no doubt gain more credibility for the Arabs in the international arena. King Hussein's current tour is taking into consideration the time element which is crucial in the present circumstances, and calls for speedy action on the pan-Arab front. The Arabs cannot take the initiative in resolving their problems unless they are united and agreed on the steps that should be taken in the coming stage; and unless they have the determination and will to unite they can never achieve their objectives. The King's current endeavours represent a period in which Arab resolutions are being translated into action, and there is no doubt that the monarch's moves are aimed at fulfilling the aspirations of the Arab masses.

Al Dustour: King follows on summit resolutions

KING Hussein's tour of Gulf Arab states comes in the wake of a successful Arab summit in Amman during which the King was instrumental in bringing about consensus and agreement among the Arabs on basic issues of concern to their countries. The King's visits to Gulf countries constitute an important stage in his on-going efforts, to rally the Arabs, and is part of a long series of endeavours which started in Damascus, and was followed by visits to Baghdad, Saudi Arabia, and Egypt. One can see that this tour coincides with serious developments in our region and comes at a time when the Arab states are in need of unity and joint action. The visit to the Gulf comes against a background of serious escalations in the Gulf conflict and at a time when Iran threatens to launch a new offensive against Iraq and possibly against Arab states in the Gulf region. One can say that this tour is also part of the King's efforts to corroborate the resolutions of the Amman summit and enhance the brotherly atmosphere which prevailed at the meeting in Amman. We hope that the Gulf states will respond to these efforts by embarking on a more effective role to boost the joint Arab action at this crucial stage, and we sincerely hope that the King's tour will achieve its aspired goals.

Sawt Al Shaab: U.S.. Israel stand against peace

ISRAEL and its ally the United States continue to reject the only chance for peace in the Middle East as was manifest in their voting against a resolution for holding an international conference taken at the United Nations General Assembly. Israel's rejection of the idea of the conference and the U.S. support for Israel's stand have had their negative impact on the European nations which chose to refrain from voting on the motion at the U.N. General Assembly meeting. The Europeans have been welcoming the idea of the conference as was clear in their Brussels declaration but under U.N.-Israeli pressure they succumbed and turned their back to the Arabs. Such European stand can only encourage Israel and the United States to block all paths leading to a settlement. But the U.N. General Assembly's vote which was 134 for the idea of the conference can and should be regarded as a victory for Jordan's diplomacy and for the Arab struggle for the achievement of a just and permanent peace.

Fuses running short in occupied territories

By Waleed Sadi

THE ON-GOING uprising in the West Bank and Gaza Strip is a sample of the catastrophe that lies ahead which Lord Winchelsea, the head of the fact-finding British delegation which concluded its visit to the occupied territories on the eve of the Reagan-Gorbachev summit, has predicted. The upheaval in the West Bank and Gaza Strip is also a warning that Palestinian resistance is on the rise as long as Israeli occupation persists. The Black December week in which at least eight Palestinian Arabs were shot to death and dozens injured by Israeli troops attempting to disperse Palestinian demonstrations could very well go down in the Middle East history as the watershed which will determine the future course of events in the occupied territories.

Lord Winchelsea and his accompanying delegation have warned of an "imminent human catastrophe" in the occupied territories. To quote but some of his words expressing this gloomy forecast, Lord Winchelsea said: "There is a new and immediate danger of a human catastrophe leading to the death of thousands of innocent people... and a rapid slide towards an uncontrollable and violent confrontation between the unarmed inhabitants of the occupied territories and the Israeli occupation troops." He incorporated such admonitions in the report that he forwarded to British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher on the eve of her meeting with Soviet Leader Mikhail Gorbachev who was en route to Washington for his summit with President Ronald Reagan. And judging by the results of the Reagan-Gorbachev summit, the warning of Lord Winchelsea

and like minded well informed people has failed to make a dent in the U.S. opposition to the principle of holding an international peace conference on the Middle East. The Arab-Israeli conflict ended up being one of the principal sour points on which the two leaders could not agree. That means that the Arabs must wait a lot longer for a breakthrough in their quest for an honourable and durable peace in the Middle East. To be sure, such a breakthrough is not likely to occur prior to the Israeli and U.S. elections late next year, albeit, the projections about the outcome of these elections do not look promising as far as peace in the region is concerned.

On the Arab side, it would help a great deal if the Arab house is put in a better order; for inspite of the unprecedented solidarity achieved between the Arab leaders at last month's summit, there is still a great deal to be done. The Arab inhabitants of the occupied territories are still waiting for clearer signals from the Arab World about the future course of events. They are no longer content with pious remarks about the international peace conference. They are demanding immediate, more action-oriented steps, as their recent uprising most clearly demonstrates. Their patience with the Israelis and the Arab World is obviously wearing thin.

As for the Israeli side of the equation, the Israelis will be well advised to heed the words of their Foreign Minister Shimon Peres who summed up the Arab-Israeli situation well when he told some right-wing parliamentarians in the wake of the stabbing to death of an Israeli settler in Gaza City last week that the Israelis must reckon

with reality and choose between giving up 300 square kilometres of the Gaza Strip or 650,000 hostile Palestinians projected to become one million at the turn of the century that come with it. The logic and rationale of this can and should be extended to the West Bank as well where 750,000 Palestinian Arabs still live and whose number is also expected to swell to one million by the year 2000 — mere 12 years away. And although Mr. Peres and like-minded Israelis have started to comprehend the time-bomb awaiting the country if their occupation of Arab territories continues much longer, we in the Arab World have been voicing such concerns along to choose between peace and territory. In other words the Israelis cannot have their cake and eat it. Yet Arab warnings fell on deaf ears in Israel and elsewhere especially in Washington. The U.S. leverage with the Israelis and in particular with the Likud leadership has yet to be tapped in favour of permanent peace in the Middle East. But we in the Arab World understand fully the Charles Percy syndrome — the U.S. Senator who lost power and prestige because of his balanced views on the Arab-Israeli conflict. Its lessons obviously hang heavily on the minds and consciences of many U.S. men and women seeking positions of power and glory with their political system. That's why any breakthrough in the Arab-Israeli conflict must be sought from within the Arab and Israeli constituencies themselves. Alas neither side has done its home work on solid grounds yet.

West Bank, Gaza uprising highlights human time bomb

By Paul Taylor

Reuters

TEL AVIV — Children are in the front line of Palestinian uprising sweeping the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, highlighting a human time bomb ticking on Israel's doorstep.

Demonstrators who stoned Israeli troops, hurled petrol bombs, barricaded streets and burnt tyres over the last week had an average age of about 15.

Five of the six protesters shot dead by the Israeli army since last Wednesday were teenagers. The youngest was an 11-year-old boy.

"They are the children of the occupation, born under Israeli rule," said Bernard Mills, director of the U.N. Relief and Works

Agency for Palestinian Refugees in Gaza.

"What is frightening is that they are simply not afraid any more," he said.

The uprising has been most severe in the squalid refugee camps, where impoverished families have little to lose.

Few Israeli civilians now dare venture into the teeming coastal strip. Even the 3,000 hardened Jewish settlers, who live behind forests of barbed wire on 30 per cent of Gaza's scarce land, travel only armed and in convoys.

The daily Hadashot, in a comparison heard increasingly frequently among Israelis, said in an editorial: "Since 1967, the Gaza Strip and parts of (the West Bank) have become more and

more like Soweto in South Africa, maybe worse."

It said the areas were "densely populated, poor, with shameful living conditions and full of hatred."

"It is no secret that Israeli soldiers are scared today to enter those areas," Hadashot said.

The scale and ferocity of the latest wave of demonstrations surprised Israeli politicians and editors. Military commanders went on state radio to try to reassure the public that the army was in control.

Israeli and Palestinian editors agreed the demonstrations began spontaneously in Gaza after four Arab workers were killed by an Israeli army truck last Tuesday. Yehuda Litani, in an analysis in

the Jerusalem Post, said the youthful protesters were emboldened by the success of a Palestinian fighter who killed six Israeli soldiers in a hand-gangster raid on northern Israel on November 25.

Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leaders encouraged the demonstrators in an effort to draw the Palestinian problem to the attention of President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev at their Washington summit, Litani claimed.

But foreign relief workers said the demonstrators needed no outside incitement.

"This place is a disaster waiting to happen. The slightest spark and Gaza explodes," an international relief official said.

The children's revolt has sparked debate about what Israelis call the demographic time bomb in the territories.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, head of the Labour Party, last week floated the idea of demilitarising the Gaza Strip and dismantling Jewish settlements there.

He asked whether Israel really wanted 650,000 hostile Palestinians for the sake of 300 sq kms of territory, noting that the Gaza population would be one million by the year 2000.

A government survey quoted by the daily Haaretz on Sunday showed that almost 60 per cent of Gaza's population was under the age of 19 — born since Israel occupied the area and the West

Bank in the 1967 Middle East war.

Official Israeli statistics show that if Israel holds on to territories, there will be net three million Arabs living alongside four million Jews by the end of the 21st century.

Liberal politicians such as veteran former Foreign Minister Abba Eban say this means Israel will have to choose between being a democracy and being Jewish state.

Right-wing Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and his Likud Party say time is on Israel's side and answer is in tougher law-and-order and more Jewish settlement.

Arms treaty a win for Shultz, Washington's dogged survivor

By Michael Battye

Reuters

WASHINGTON — At a summit lunch held in his honour last week, Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev stopped himself in mid-speech to shake hands with two men he credited with concluding the new superpower arms control pact.

For Secretary of State George Shultz, whom Gorbachev honoured along with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, it was a sweet moment.

It marked a major victory for Shultz — who celebrated his 67th birthday on Sunday — in the often bitter government in-fighting for which Washington is famous.

Since he took the job of secretary of state more than five years ago until very recently, Shultz battled with Pentagon hardliners who did not share his enthusiasm for arms control.

He has also been hit with criticism for his role in the Iran-contra scandal and what some analysts called his neglect of areas such as the Middle East and southern Africa.

But last week, when President Reagan and Gorbachev signed the intermediate-range nuclear forces (INF) treaty, Shultz basked in the victory of having shepherded through the world's first major disarmament pact and the first arms control treaty of the Reagan presidency.

Through intensive talks with Shevardnadze in Moscow, Geneva and Washington, Shultz and the Soviet foreign minister refused to give up until the long-sought treaty was complete — just two weeks before the third Reagan-Gorbachev summit.

Even Shultz's critics gave him plaudits.

"He showed himself to be a man with a strong personality, obviously very bright and tough in a certain way," said Bruce Wetmore, chief analyst at the conservative Heritage Foundation, usually critical of Shultz's pragmatic approach to East-West relations.

Those who know Shultz say the treaty was a tribute to his quiet persistence — which helped him outlast a cast of Pentagon critics.

Missing at last week's lunch was Caspar Weinberger, who quit as defence secretary last month after years of suspicion of the wisdom of signing any arms treaties with Moscow.

Nor was there Richard Perle, who, until his resignation as assistant secretary of defence earlier this year, had seemed even more

opposed to the INF treaty than Weinberger.

Also absent was Frank Gaffney, another Pentagon official who opposed the treaty and was forced out just weeks ago by Weinberger's more pragmatic successor, Frank Carlucci.

"His (Gaffney's) job," said one senior State Department official closely involved in arms control talks, "seemed to be to turn up at meetings to say no."

James Blaker, a former Pentagon official, said Shultz's performance on the treaty — which banned missiles with ranges from 500-5,000 kilometres — was almost flawless.

"Shultz just plain outmanoeuvred Cap (Weinberger) and Richard (Perle)," said Blaker, now an arms control analyst at the private Hudson Institute.

"He used his access to the president and energised his staff, to fight the bureaucratic battles at a lower level, and that's no mean feat," he said.

Echoed Robert Hunter, an analyst with the private Centre for Strategic and International Studies: "There is no question that Shultz was of considerable help in keeping things moving

while the Pentagon was trying to knock things back."

But the analysis said that the INF accord, and a possible so-called START treaty halving superpower arsenals of long-range missiles that Reagan and Gorbachev want to sign next year, may be the highest marks of Shultz's tenure.

"When we talk of Shultz's successes, we are talking about a very specific range of issues, which are those which President Reagan cares about, INF and START," Hunter said.

Hunter and other analysts said, Shultz — who has held other posts in past Republican administrations — had made little or no impact in key foreign policy areas.

They said he neglected possibilities for forging a peace between Israel and the Arab World, of backing an ineffective policy in Central America and getting nowhere in crisis-torn southern Africa.

The analysts also said Shultz has to bear a part of the blame for the Iran-contra scandal that produced Reagan's worst foreign policy crisis.

Warships to shield ASEAN leader meeting in troubled Manila

By Jose Katigbak

Reuters

MANILA — Warships, troops and bulletproof cars will shield non-Communist Asian leaders meeting in the strife-torn Philippines this week in their first summit in a decade.

Fears for their safety are dominating the run-up to the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) talks in Manila and threaten to draw the spotlight away from their discussions of politics and economics.

The unprecedented protection follows a wave of bomb incidents apparently orchestrated by right-wing enemies of Philippine President Corazon Aquino to disrupt the summit.

Police have described the explosions and attempted bombings as a serious threat to the stability of the Philippines, already racked by five attempted coups against President Corazon Aquino's government and an 18-year-old Communist insurgency.

The December 14-15 talks will be attended by the presidents of Indonesia and the Philippines, the prime ministers of Malaysia, Thailand and Singapore and the sultan of Brunei.

"Security by land, sea and air will be total," a Philippine military officer said.

It would be a major propaganda victory for leftist guerrillas or rightist army rebels and a deep embarrassment for Aquino if the summit were attacked and broke up in chaos.

A foreign ministry spokesman said Indonesia would send three landing craft and two escort vessels to ferry bodyguards, bulletproof cars, a helicopter and sophisticated communication equipment for president Suharto's protection.

He said Malaysian naval ships were due to arrive as a guard for Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamed.

All the leaders are expected to bring their own bodyguards and bulletproof cars.

As a measure of concern over security, Filipino authorities have trimmed the original three-day summit to two days and confined all activities to one site.

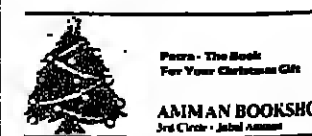
Ten thousand troops and police are to be deployed in and around Manila and helicopters and navy patrol boats will be provided for each ASEAN leader for quick escape in case of attacks on the conference site on Manila bay.

The Philippine Plaza Hotel where the leaders are to stay is cordoned off and the air space above will be closed to unauthorised aircraft.

Police said they had uncovered a plot to disrupt the talks with an arrest on Thursday of a supporter of former President Ferdinand Marcos in possession of 250 sticks of dynamite.

Police who detained businessman and electronics expert Roberto Eusebio said they found several sets of military uniforms in his apartment, indicating there was a plot to infiltrate the summit's layers of protection.

"We aborted other plans bomb several places in Manila. It's still possible there are several other places where bombs may have been planted. I have directed police to look for them," said Brigadier-General Alex Aguirre, the Manila air military commander.



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A financial famine

UNICEF News Feature

THE NET flow of finance in the world is now heavily from the poor countries to the rich, according to a new report from the United Nations Children's Fund, UNICEF.

Balancing all new aid and loans against the flow back of debt and interest payments, the "bottom line" is that approximately \$27 billion a year is now flowing from the developing nations to the industrialised world. In 1981, the net flow was over \$40 billion a year — in the opposite direction. And this dramatic about-face has happened, says UNICEF, at a time when prices for the developing world's raw materials are at their lowest for fifty years.

The result, says UNICEF's *State of the World's Children* report for 1988, is a 'financial famine'.

Children's recession

Not all nations have suffered equally. Several of the most populous countries of Asia, including India and China, have been able to insulate themselves from the worst of the recession. But in the 1980s, more than 70 governments, mainly in Africa and Latin America, have had to implement "adjustment policies" to reduce balance-of-payments deficits, honour debt repayments, and try to get stalled economies going again.

Young children have suffered most. "They are the ones whose families have least scope for making economies and have had to cut back on necessities," says the UNICEF report, "and they are the ones who are most dependent on the health services and food subsidies which so many governments have cut back as a way of adjusting to recession."

As a result, clinics are being closed, teachers are being laid off, and malnutrition is on the increase in many nations. UNICEF studies show that "the well-being of the young has been measurably deteriorating in at least thirty nations of the developing world."

"But sacrificing the growth of today's children for the growth of tomorrow's economy," comments UNICEF's Executive Director, James P. Grant, "makes neither economic sense nor human sense."

"It cannot be stressed too often," continues Grant, "that the young child cannot just 'ride out' such periods of austerity. A child who has to go without adequate food or health care in those years will not grow to his or her physical or mental potential. There is no second chance."

The alternatives

The UNICEF report also examines practical alternatives to present adjustment policies. Arguing that low-cost services for the majority — such as immunisation and other primary health care programmes — should be maintained at all costs, the report argues that such services can be afforded even in difficult economic times.

"It is not a question of inevitabilities but of priorities," says Grant. "Even if a government has to make spending cuts, there is a choice about exactly where those cuts should be made. In defence or in the health of its people? In subsidies to airlines serving the richest 2 per cent or to food programmes serving the poorest 20 per cent? And even if spending on health and education does have to take its share of the financial strain, there remains a choice about whether to cut the budgets of universities or primary schools, city hospitals or rural health clinics, cardiac research or child immunisation programmes."

In particular, most developing nations could take advantage of today's major opportunities for promoting child health by low-cost means — and especially by informing and supporting parents in applying today's knowledge about such basic health actions as immunisation, oral re-hydration therapy, birth spacing, breast-feeding, safe weaning, growth monitoring, control of respiratory infections, safe motherhood, and basic home hygiene. "These are the areas of action which could cut child deaths and child malnutrition by half," says UNICEF, "and these are the areas where action is possible at such low cost that it can be afforded by almost any nation and by almost any family even in such difficult economic times."



"Most of the growth of a human brain and body is completed in the first five years of life. There is no second chance. Children who have to go without adequate food or health care in those years will be unable to develop to their full potential today — and unable to make their full contribution to society tomorrow." — the 1988 State of the World's Children report from UNICEF (Photograph by Mike Goldwater/Network).

International action

Some nations are attempting to protect the poorest from the worst effects of recession. Indonesia, for example, faced with the need to cut spending as a result of falling oil revenues, has cut hospital investment costs by 75 per cent at the same time as stepping up essential health services in 47,000 villages. And in Algeria, where cuts have been made this year in every ministry except the Ministry of Health, hospital spending has also been held back while the nation attempts to put oral rehydration therapy, immunisation, and clean water at the disposal of every family.

But the UNICEF report points out that "for some countries, national action alone cannot be sufficient, even with the most heroic political and economic efforts." If economic growth is to be restored, and if the most vulnerable are to be protected in the process, then the industrialised world will have to offer more financial help.

Development for children

Finally, the report suggests that protecting young children in hard times is a process which must be monitored and measured.

Three years after great drought, hunger again sweeps Africa

By Rory Channing
Reuters

NAIROBI — Only three years after Africa's great drought, rains have failed again and hunger once more stalks the world's poorest continent.

Villagers trek for days in Ethiopia to get foreign food handouts and children are already dying of diseases brought on by malnutrition, relief officials say.

There and elsewhere the landscape is devastated. Cattle have died, crops withered and rivers dried up. Relief workers are battling to stop the ranks of refugees growing.

Irish pop star Bob Geldof, of Band Aid and Live Aid fame, is trying again to focus world attention on Ethiopia where five million people face starvation, and war-torn Mozambique where malnutrition and infant mortality rates are among the world's highest.

But fears that Ethiopia's plight might not evoke the public concern shown in 1985 raise a question over how 18 other African nations facing food shortages might fare.

"Compassion fatigue is setting in," said Zia Rizvi, secretary-general of the Geneva-based Independent Commission on International Humanitarian Issues.

"The second crisis has already started and it comes at a time when people are already sick of listening to horror stories in Ethiopia," he said last week.

Up to one million Ethiopians died in the 1984-85 famine, according to estimates of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

Relief agencies have identified 18 other African countries in need of food because of crop failure resulting from drought, locusts and war.

Starting with Mauritania in the West the drought belt, shaped like a question mark, stretches east across the continent to Somalia then bends south to Swaziland.

It sweeps through Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger, Nigeria, Chad, Sudan, Ethiopia, Uganda, Zaire, Tanzania, Zambia, Malawi, Angola, Zimbabwe, Mozambique and Botswana, gripped by drought for the sixth year in a row.

The Rome-based World Food Programme (WFP) said last month that 15 sub-Saharan countries needed 2.7 million tonnes of relief food. Foreign donors had then pledged only 1.3 million.

In West Africa, the nine Sahelian countries have grown 45 per cent more food than in 1984 but then pledged only 1.3 million. Africa expects rain failure periodically. But what surprised

experts was the way drought returned so quickly, and with such severity.

A World Bank report for the year ended June 30 and published in September gave no hint of the problems then already looming in Eastern and Southern Africa.

"The end of the severe drought in most countries was followed by a surge in food production that food shortages have become the exception rather than the rule," it observed.

Last month the WFP said conditions in sub-Saharan Africa had deteriorated so rapidly and unexpectedly that it was running short of emergency food stocks.

The lesson of the last drought — the need to improve warning systems and build adequate food reserves — had yet to bear fruit.

Foreign governments have responded quickly to appeals for aid, sending money, food, medicine and, in Ethiopia's case, trucks and planes to distribute the food.

But independent aid agencies may have to scratch harder for money this year as other countries like India, also hit by a punishing drought, compete for funds.

Relief workers fear the public abroad, on whom non-government aid agencies rely for funds, may misinterpret the need for help again so soon as a symptom of economic mismanagement.

Civil strife has further reduced the ability of Ethiopia, Chad, Sudan, Uganda, Angola and Mozambique to feed their people.

Secrets of soil fertility

By Alexander Batalin

Man has invented numerous ways of influencing Nature to get more food. However, even on the bountiful Iowa experimental farms soil fertility is reaching its limit for all the updated agronomy. Can productivity grow any further? Rurik Salyaev, Corresponding Member of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR, head of the Irkutsk Institute of Plant Physiology and Biochemistry in Siberia, speaks about this with Novosti correspondent.

"OUR INSTITUTE is tackling this problem. We described our approach to it and our results at this year's conference of the Federation of European Biochemical Societies in Yugoslavia and at the Spanish-Soviet symposium. We believe that revolutionary intervention in plant physiology can bring about a substantial rise in productivity."

Disclosed and undisclosed secrets

Imagine a leaf section several ten millionths of a millimeter thick. Incredible as it is, that is the membrane thickness which is vital for plant processes. In plant cells they accumulate compounds which are needed as food, medicines and technical raw materials.

Membranology is a new branch of science. Rurik Salyaev and his colleagues were the first ones in

the Soviet Union to undertake fundamental study of membrane biogenesis on isolated, "bare" plant protoplasm. The complex technology of the production of pure membrane fractions and their study with the use of super-sensitive instruments and electron-vacuum microscopes has been mastered. Many scientists come to Irkutsk to study these research methods and equipment. The Soviet experience is touched upon in a French-published study paper, a part of which was written by Rurik Salyaev.

"The first phase of research — study of the object, its properties and functions from its basic parameters — is over," he says. "We're entering a new phase — study of membranes as transportation means which ensure movement of different substances

in the cell and their storage. We're looking for methods to control accumulation of the substances we need and thereby to influence the yield at the cellular level.

"Another method of raising yields at the molecular level is designing plants by means of gene engineering. So far we have been tackling fundamental tasks and selecting and developing the vectors and conditions for controlled cell fusion in hybridisation, and also the conditions in which to recreate a plant from the hybridised cells.

"In principle it is no longer problematic to grow a plant from a cell. But not every plant lends itself to such experimenting. For example, carrot, potato, tomato and tobacco cells easily regenerate, while wheat cells don't. We don't know the secret yet."

The Institute's Biochemical Genetics Laboratory is probing them. Victor Voinikov, Doctor of Biology, has put forward an interesting "cold shock" theory. It boils down to the following: When the temperature falls, the synthesis of ordinary proteins slows down, or ends altogether. Simultaneously, the synthesis of

other unusual proteins begins. In Voinikov's opinion, they help the plant to survive in these unfavourable conditions.

For genetic experiments the scientists use hybrids of winter wheat and rye, which are promising economically. Their adaptation to the rigorous Siberian climate is the Institute's goal. Research follows a routine path: Selection of the genotypes by tests and tough testing of them against a so-called "provocative background". The most resistant genotypes are selected for further work. The ultimate goal is production of genotypes that would be donors of frost-resistant genes.

Towards this end gene-engineering methods are employed. From the frost-resistant cell this genetic material is transplanted, by microsurgery, into another cell with other very useful properties. The hybrid cell produced has to be multiplied and then entire plants grown from them.

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Porto beats Penarol, Weather to clinch World Club crown

TOKYO (R) — European champions Porto won the World Club Soccer Championship here on Sunday when they beat Penarol of Uruguay 2-1 after extra time in a game reduced to near-farce by heavy snow and a muddy pitch.

Opportunistic goals from veteran striker Fernando Gomes and Algerian World Cup star Rabah Madjer edged out the powerful and patient Uruguayans after the teams were level 1-1 at the end of 90 minutes. Madjer's brilliantly-taken winner came in the 18th minute of extra time.

Porto coach Tomislav Ivic said he had never before been involved in a game played under such conditions. "If this had been any other game, it would have been postponed," he said before both teams flew out to fulfil domestic commitments.

Both sides worked hard to overcome the problems posed by heavy snow on a poor surface which dissolved into a mudbath. The ball stopped dead as soon as it hit the ground and the players floundered in ankle-deep mud which would have been ruled unfit for the lowliest of amateur soccer matches.

Penarol coach Oscar Tabarez said his team's tactics were simply to "kick the ball as hard as possible" while Ivic added: "It was an achievement for a player

to get the ball in front of him." Neither side was able to come up with an answer to the conditions but it was a tribute to both the skills and attitude of the young Uruguayan side that they were able to provide most of what little technique was visible through the non-stop snow.

They fell behind in the 41st minute to a goal resulting partly from the condition of the pitch and partly from the brilliance of Madjer who will soon be displaying his skills for Bayern Munich.

He danced through the slush into the corner of the penalty area and drove a cross shot past Penarol keeper Eduardo Pereyra. The ball touched the ground and stopped dead a metre from the line where the incoming Gomes managed to keep his feet for a second longer than the accompanying defender to prod the ball home.

The goal spurred a determined second-half display by the South Americans whose quest for a fourth championship win was thwarted only by the repeated brilliance and bravery of Porto's

Polish international goalkeeper Josef Mlynarczyk.

He was constantly in action as Penarol, prompted by Ricardo Viera, pressed forward and his bravery in dealing with through balls mired in the mud on the six-metre line foiled the ever-dangerous Diego Aguirre on three occasions.

But he was unable to do anything about Viera's equaliser in the 80th minute. The tall, powerful midfielder controlled the ball on his chest, turned on the six-metre line and drove a crisp shot beyond the keeper's reach.

The goal appeared to rattle Porto but Penarol, playing the more composed version of kick-and-rush, were unable to press home their advantage before in the end of normal time.

They continued to attack but paid the price when Madjer, the only Porto player in Penarol's half, chased a long clearance and won it from a defender who was bogged down some 35 metres out.

The Algerian spotted that Pereyra, who had spent most of the match patrolling the edge of his penalty box as an extra sweeper, was again outside the area and chipped the ball home from about 30 metres.

E. Germany decided to take part in Olympics — Der Spiegel

HAMBURG, West Germany (AP) — East Germany has decided to take part in the 1988 Olympic Games in Seoul, South Korea, and is expected to make an official announcement soon, the West German newsmagazine Der Spiegel said Saturday.

The decision to take part in the Seoul Games came at a meeting between East German Communist Party leader Erich Honecker and the country's National Olympic Committee at the end of November, Spiegel said.

By making East Germany the first Soviet bloc nation to announce its decision, "Honecker wants to show his independence from the Soviet Union," the magazine said.

The Soviet Union will not make its decision known until shortly before the Jan. 17 deadline, the date by which invitations for Seoul must be accepted, Spiegel said.

Most of the Soviet allies boycotted the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics for what they claimed was a lack of security guarantees. Spiegel hits newstands on Monday but the magazine released advance copies to news agencies on Saturday.

Invalid former wrestling champ lifts Olympic Flame in Montreal

MONTREAL (AP) — The Olympic Flame passed through Montreal on Saturday but the torch had to share the limelight with Maurice Vachon, a former Olympic wrestler who is extremely popular in Quebec.

The stocky Vachon, who represented Canada at the Summer Olympics in London in 1948, held the flame for a minute at a busy downtown intersection as hundreds of onlookers cheered him on.

The Olympic Flame relay will end at the opening ceremony of the Calgary Winter Olympics on Feb. 13.

Sitting in a wheelchair, Vachon

described holding the flame as the second biggest event of his sporting life behind winning a gold medal in wrestling at the British Empire Games in Auckland, New Zealand, in 1950.

"Today is a great honour for me, just to be asked to hold the torch. I'll never forget it," said Vachon who lost his right leg after a traffic accident in Iowa Oct. 9 and had to have a pin inserted in his badly broken left leg.

"It's a reward for me, and it's very warm inside here," the burly Vachon said, pointing to his heart.

Monaco concedes points to Bordeaux, Racing

PARIS (R) — French First Division soccer leader Monaco were held to an inglorious 1-1 tie by Toulouse on Saturday, ceding points to Bordeaux and Matra Racing, the two clubs nipping at their heels in the league standings.

With British internationals Mark Hateley and Glenn Hoddle sidelined by injuries, the Monaco team could only muster one goal by striker Marcel Dibi, countering that of Toulouse striker Dominique Rocheteau, to bring their points total for the 23rd match of the season to 33.

Bordeaux, who beat Le Havre

on their home field 1-0, and Racing, who dominated Nice 2-1 there through the talents of their two Uruguayan strikers Enzo Francescoli and Diego Umpierrez, both advanced to 30 points.

Auxerre continued their march up the standings table to fourth place with an easy victory over Brest 4-0, as Auxerre goalkeeper Bruno Martini kept his cage untarnished for the eighth consecutive game.

The day's matches saw five clubs win away, with Laval accomplishing the unexpected at Nantes (2-1) and Lille at Marseille (1-0).

Chang retains WBC light flyweight title

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Chang Jung-Koo of South Korea recovered from a first-round knockdown and retained his World Boxing Council (WBC) light flyweight title Sunday with a unanimous decision over Isidro Perez of Mexico.

It was Chang's 14th defence of the title he wrested from Hilario Zapata of Panama in 1983.

The judges — two Americans and a Japanese — scored the 12-round bout 117-113, 115-113 and 114-113 for Chang.

In the first round, Perez downed Chang with a long left hook as they were exchanging punches in mid-ring. Chang struggled up after a mandatory eight count and responded with short blows to slow the Mexican's

attack. Perez, ranked second, mounted a steady offensive with jolting hooks in the next three rounds and blasted effective blows that often shook Chang. Perez appeared ahead in the first six rounds.

But Chang began to even up the match, resorting to hit-and-clinch tactics.

Norwegian woman wins Nordic Ski Race

LA CLUSAZ, France (AP) — Norway's Marianne Dahlmo won the first women's World Cup Nordic Ski Race of the season Sunday with an easy victory in the 5-kilometre event. Dahlmo, third in the World Cup standings last season, timed 13 minutes, 54.4 seconds for the free-style race. Second was Jaana Savolainen of Finland in 14:14.2. The third-place finisher was Simone Greiner of East Germany in 14:15.9. Marjo Matikainen of Finland, last year's World Cup winner and the world champion at 5 kilometres, tied for fourth with Simone Opitz of East Germany in 14:21.5.

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The closing date for submission tenders is 12:00 noon local time, Wednesday Jan. 13, 1988.

Wasef Azar
Managing Director

W. Germany, U.S. advance to soccer finals

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP) — Defending champion Bergisch Gladbach of West Germany battled to a 1-1 tie Sunday with the United

States' California-El Camino women's soccer league select squad in the preliminary round of the 1987 Taipei International Women's Invitational Soccer Tournament.

Both teams advanced to the final round in Group A following the elimination of Japan's national team.

Also advancing into the final round were Taiwan's Mulan

squad, New Zealand's national team, the Australian national squad and Canada's first national team.

In Group B action Sunday, Taiwan's Mulan defeated New Zealand 3-1.

In Group C matches, Canada trounced Taiwan's Liangyu 2-0, and Australia blanked Hong Kong 6-0.

No games are scheduled Monday. The final round matches start Tuesday.



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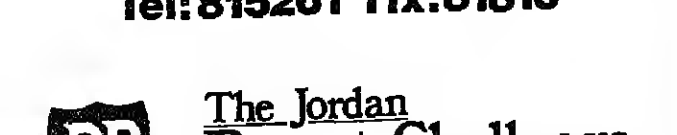
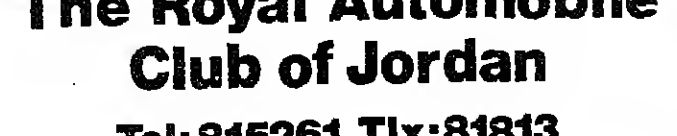
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SPORTS IN BRIEF

Tunisia wins African volleyball title

TUNIS (R) — Tunisia qualified for a place in the 1988 Seoul Olympics with a 3-0 win over Cameroon in the Sixth African Volleyball Championships. Tunisia beat the West Africans 15-6, 15-9, 15-12 on Saturday night to record their fourth championship title. Outgoing titleholders Egypt lost 2-3 to Algeria, who came third in the Tunis event. Tunisia were runners-up to Egypt in the fifth championships in 1983. They won the first African volleyball title in 1967, and took it again in 1971 and 1979. The winner of the sixth championships qualifies for the Seoul Games.

New win for Swiss women

LEUKERBAD, Switzerland (AP) — Olympic downhill gold medalist Michela Figini, displaying impressive dominance in a super-g race, scored Saturday the fourth straight World Cup win for the Swiss women's team as a streak of American bad luck continued with a terrifying spill by Tori Piller. Although bruised in a fall after capturing Friday's downhill, Figini mastered the tricky, bumpy torrent course in superb style to lead second-placed Silvia Eder of Austria by 1.05 second. Her winning margin was wider than the time separating the next nine finishers. West Germany's Regine Moesenecker, a 12-season World Cup veteran, was third 1.15 second behind the winner. Karen Percy of Canada was the best non-European finisher, trailing Figini by 1.33 second.

E. German swimmers set world best time

MONTE CARLO, Monaco (AP) — An East German women's relay team set a world's best time in the 400-metre freestyle relay Saturday, clocking three minutes, 38.77 seconds during the first day of European Cup swimming competition here. The time was set in a 25-metre pool and does not count for an official world record. The previous best-ever in a small pool was 3:41.74 set by another East German team in Indianapolis, in January 1983.

Ploc wins ski jumping competition

LAKE PLACID, New York (AP) — Pavel Ploc of Czechoslovakia posted the two best jumps of the competition Saturday and easily won the Subaru World Cup 90-metre ski jumping competition at the Olympic Jumping Complex. Ploc moved into first place in the World Cup standings with his triumph, overtaking Matti Nykaenen of Finland, who returned home after winning the World Cup openers last weekend in Thunder Bay, Ontario.

Briton wins judo title

FUKUOKA, Japan (AP) — Sharon Rendle of Britain, winner of the World Judo Championships last month, beat Kaori Yamaguchi of Japan by a decision Sunday for the 52-kilogramme class title in the 5th International Women's Judo Championships. Yoko Tanabe won the open class, while fellow Japanese Furiko Ezaki took the 48-kilogramme class and Chung Eun-Hee of South Korea won the 56-kilogramme class on the final day of the two-day championships before 5,300 spectators at the Fukuoka international centre hall. Rendle, who also beat Yamaguchi in the final of the World Judo Championships in Essen, charged aggressively and won the match 1-0. In the semifinals, Rendle beat Joan Quiring of the United States by a decision 5-0 and Yamaguchi eliminated Tsay Shwu Huey of Taiwan with a lock in 53 seconds.

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Two Swiss banks allege employee irregularities

GENEVA (R) — Two banks in Switzerland, including the country's largest, last week alleged irregularities by employees which may have cost them up to a combined total of 40 million Swiss francs (\$30 million).

The Union Bank of Switzerland (UBS), the nation's largest, in a statement from its Zurich headquarters, accused an employee of its Geneva branch of irregularities that may have cost it more than 10 million Swiss francs (\$7.5 million).

Geneva Judge Vladimir Stemberger, assigned to investigate the case, said UBS employee and a foreign businessman were in custody.

"They remain in preventive detention," he said. He would not say whether formal charges had been laid against the men.

Mr. Paul Perraudin, another Geneva judge, said he had issued an international arrest warrant for an assistant vice president of the United Overseas Bank (UOB).

The bank has alleged the employee fled with up to 30 million

Swiss francs (\$20 million), the judge said.

Mr. Perraudin told Reuters: "There has been no formal notification of the charges because this must be done in person. The accused must be detained first."

But he said allegations would include use of falsified documents, abuse of confidence and aggravated disloyal management.

Mr. Perraudin said he had advised Geneva's 100 banks to block all accounts in the man's name pending investigations, and had also ordered accounts frozen in the United States.

Mr. Robert Equey, a UOB lawyer, told Reuters that the employee is believed to have embezzled funds through an account he had opened. "The account was opened on the basis of false documents. It was used for highly speculative operations in the stock market and commodities."

The Geneva-based UOB's largest shareholders are Bank of America, Banque Nationale de Paris and Dresdner Bank, he said.

B.A. demands suspension of BCAL routes after SAS bid approval

LONDON (R) — Britain's Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) last week approved a Scandinavian Airlines (SAS) bid for a take in the loss-making British Aledonian Airlines (BCAL).

British Airways (B.A.), which on Thursday raised its own offer to buy the airline outright, immediately asked that British Aledonian's route licences be revoked.

A B.A. spokesman said the airline was seeking a full hearing of the CAA on the question of whether the SAS offer would result in the passing of British route licences into foreign hands.

The regulatory body approved AS's £110 million (\$201 million) bid, saying such an offer would make BCAL a foreign airline.

But B.A. said in a statement: "If SAS were to acquire a substantial holding in BCAL with the potential of control, valuable aviation concessions may have to be given to foreign governments."

permitted B.A.'s services to continue."

"Any such concessions would be in the U.K. public interest," A. considers that the question of implications of potential SAS control should be considered in full hearing by the CAA," the airline added.

Under the civil aviation act of 1982, the CAA may revoke route licences granted to British carriers if it believes control of the carrier has passed into foreign hands.

The CAA was not immediately available for comment on B.A.'s statement.

B.A. on Thursday upped its bid for BCAL to £200 million (\$366 million) from its previous bid which valued the airline at £119 million (\$214 mil-

lion). The key decision in the battle now rests with BCAL's major shareholder. Investors in Industry Plc (31), who control 41 per cent of the stake. A spokesman for 31 said on Thursday it would await a recommendation from BCAL before deciding which bid to back.

In a separate statement, BCAL chairman Sir Adam Thomson welcomed the CAA approval: "We are delighted that the entire question of the future of BCAL will be decided by our shareholders alone," he said.

The B.A. spokesman noted that the CAA's letter to Sir Thomson had said the CAA might change its mind on whether BCAL would remain a British carrier under the SAS deal "in light of further argument, should the matter be brought to a public hearing."

This was a factor behind B.A.'s latest move, he said.

The SAS offer for a 26.14 per cent stake in BCAL, which lost around £19 million (\$34.77 million) last year. The scheme would enable the SAS stake to rise to 40 per cent if certain conditions were fulfilled, including British government approval.

An SAS spokesman said the company had no immediate comment on the CAA letter or the B.A. move.

B.A. wants to take over BCAL to create a huge British carrier to take on the U.S. giants. If it succeeds, an estimated 2,000 jobs would be slashed as the airline relinquishes a number of domestic and European routes, a condition of government approval.

A successful SAS bid would be more likely to leave BCAL intact.

Soviets increase oil exports

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Union said last week it managed a slight increase during 1986 in the volume of its petroleum exports, its chief source of hard currency.

Breaking with previous policy in line with the Kremlin's drive for openness, it published export volume figures for oil, gas, grain and other commodities. It used to report only the value of these in roubles.

The official monthly Foreign Trade said Soviet exports of oil and petroleum products reached 186.3 million tonnes in 1986, up from 166.9 million tonnes the previous year.

It said the Soviet Union exported 79.2 billion cubic metres of fuel gas last year compared to 68.7 billion in 1985.

Although the Soviet Union imports grain from the West, it also exported 26.8 million tonnes of grain (excluding groats) in 1986, down from exports of 44.2 million tonnes in 1985.

Foreign Trade did not specify the importing countries.

The figures were presented in a table comparing export by commodities in the years 1981, 1970, 1985 and 1986, apparently designed to show progress since the 1917 Bolshevik revolution.

Oil exports more than doubled between 1970, when they totalled 95.8 million tonnes, and last year.

The 1986 exports represented just over 30 per cent of last year's Soviet oil production of 615 million tonnes. In 1985, exports represented 28 per cent of 595 million tonnes produced.

The Soviet Union promised in August last year to cut its oil exports to the West to help shore up falling world prices. But this move, viewed as a symbolic gesture to help the OPEC group, would have occurred too late to be reflected in 1986 figures.

Soviet oil production began improving last year after a period of stagnation which began in late 1983.

The 1988 target has been set at 625 million tonnes, a rise of eight million over this year's state plan requirements.

The Soviet Union, the world's largest oil producer, needs hard currency earned through oil and gas sales for purchases of Western grain, equipment and technology.

But the bulk of its oil output is used domestically or exported to Eastern Europe. Western experts last year estimated Soviet oil exports to the West in 1985 at 68 million tonnes.

The figures published by Foreign Trade showed that the Soviet Union's gas exports had increased dramatically since 1970, when it sold 3.3 billion cubic metres abroad.

B.P. plans to raise offer in battle for independent British oil company

LONDON (R) — The British Petroleum Co Plc (B.P.) said last week it planned to buy more shares in the independent British oil company Britoil and raise its stake to 29.9 per cent from 14.9 per cent.

A B.P. statement saying it would offer £3.50 (\$6.30) per share was released after U.S. firm Atlantic Richfield Company (ARCO) said it had acquired a 7.7 per cent stake in Britoil and wanted to raise its stake to 29.9 per cent.

ARCO also offered £3.50 (\$6.30) for each share in a deal announced on Friday which would have allowed Britoil to remain a British firm and also given it all or most of ARCO's oil and gas assets outside North America.

On completion of Britoil and ARCO's proposed deal, it was intended that ARCO would own no more than 49.9 per cent of Britoil's enlarged share capital.

Britoil's financial advisers N.M. Rothschild and Sons later said ARCO had met with the takeovers and mergers panel and was free to buy Britoil shares.

A Rothschild's spokesman declined to comment on the nature of the takeover panel discussions.

B.P., the world's third largest oil company, had earlier this month made its own market raid on Britoil to gain the 14.9 per cent stake and had made a tender offer at £3 (\$5.40) per share to raise the holding to 29.9 per cent.

The move was viewed by some analysts as a prelude to a takeov-

er bid.

B.P. said it would try to buy the additional Britoil shares through tender offer.

Britoil was not immediately available for comment on B.P.'s latest move, but said earlier the offer had "no merit whatsoever."

Britoil controls about seven per cent of Britain's North Sea oil and is a former state oil firm privatised by Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's government.

The government retains a "golden share" enabling it to stop any unwanted takeover.

France's Societe Nationale Elf-Aquitaine said it was making a £134.7 million (\$240 million) bid for the British North Sea oil exploration company, Tricentrol Plc, which has interests in four promising gas fields.

The move on Tricentrol stock left Elf with a 7.6 per cent stake. Brokerage analysts said the crash on stock markets had made oil stocks a bargain. This was particularly so when the stock prices were set against firms' North Sea oil and gas reserves.

"What's happened in the oil sector is almost a symptom of what's happening in the wider market," said Mr. Michael Unsworth, analyst with brokerage Smith New Court.

Tricentrol, the company which Elf seeks, has a 17.5 per cent stake in a mainland oil field at Wytch farm in southern England besides interests in the four promising offshore gas fields.

France continues to support Africa

ANTIBES, France (R) — President Francois Mitterrand on Saturday wound up a summit on Africa's economic crisis, saying France alone could not afford to bail the continent out.

"France cannot make up the aid that's lacking," President Mitterrand told a news conference ending the 14th Franco-African summit.

"But its aid is growing despite all its obligations and the shocks it has had to withstand because of the international monetary system," he gave no new figures.

Presidents and ministers from 37 African countries took part in the two-day conference in the French Riviera resort of Antibes.

Fifteen heads of state attended, the smallest number since 1980. A brief final communique said the talks showed solidarity and mutual understanding on Africa's economic problems, particularly the decline in the prices it receives for raw materials.

It welcomed the newly-signed U.S.-Soviet treaty scrapping land-based medium-range missiles, saying delegates hoped it would help focus attention on the parallel goal of achieving peace through economic development.

President Mitterrand said France was not hostile to a prop-

osal from Zaire for an international conference of Africa's debtors and creditors but he resisted appeals for a blanket moratorium on African states' \$200 billion debts.

He made it clear France would not follow Canada's example in writing off the public debts of poor African states, saying French aid was far greater than that given by Canada and France was one of the world's biggest creditor nations.

He repeated a pledge that France would continue to raise its voice in favour of African economic development in financial and industrial forums.

IMF nears broad accord on increased aid for poor

Meanwhile, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) is near agreement on an \$8 billion increase in the agency's pool of funds for poor nations, monetary sources said last week.

The sources said the IMF executive board met on Friday to

hammer out details on how precisely the funds would be disbursed and other technical matters.

They said negotiations with some countries were still under way but they could be completed early this week.

The new funding would be provided from about 20 countries, including the Group of Seven industrial nations — Japan, West Germany, Britain, France, Italy, Canada — with the exception of the United States, the sources said.

The United States had made it clear that budgetary problems bar it from providing new money for what is called the structural adjustment facility (SAF).

An administration official said the United States still feels strongly that the SAF increase should be financed by those countries running large external surpluses.

"This is an excellent opportunity for them to step forward," the official said.

The country with the largest surplus, Japan, will be a major contributor, the sources said, but it was not learned how much their contribution would be.

IMF Managing Director Michel Camdessus visited Tokyo

earlier this month to review the country's economic situation and discuss a contribution to the SAF.

"I can tell you that I am sure of the generous support of this country," he said.

Mr. Camdessus had proposed a tripling the SAF from the present \$4 billion in June to help a critical situation in the poorest countries, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa.

There had been a broad backing for the idea during the IMF annual meeting in September, but countries at that time did not make any financial commitments.

While visiting Tokyo, Mr. Camdessus made it clear that he thought that he would have the commitment from contributing countries before the end of the year.

He said that he hoped to get a figure of just over \$8 billion. "I am keeping my fingers crossed, but I am impressed by the support I have received from a lot of countries," he said.

If agreement is completed, as now seems certain, it would be a personal triumph for Mr. Camdessus, who has made it his first major initiative since becoming managing director in January, the sources said.

Romanian president orders pay bonuses to workers

VIENNA (R) — Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu has decided to hand out pay bonuses in a major policy change coinciding with growing reports of worker unrest.

The Romanian leader's proposal, reported by the Romanian news agency Agerpres, was endorsed by the Communist Party's Politburo.

The move, described by one Bucharest diplomat as "quite a reversal", precedes a special Communist Party congress opening on Monday and comes less than a month after thousands of workers in Romania's second city of Brasov rioted over pay cuts.

Agerpres, monitored in Vienna, said President Ceausescu's proposal called for half of a "profit-sharing fund" to be paid to work-

ers later this month and the rest in the first half of next year.

Lowest-paid workers will receive 15 per cent on top of their normal monthly wages and a similar figure when the fund's accounts have been finalised.

Higher-paid workers will receive 10 per cent extra.

Western diplomats contacted on Saturday in the Romanian capital, where unconfirmed reports are circulating of renewed unrest in the provinces, were surprised by the announcement.

A "global accord" introduced in Romania two years ago linked pay to the fulfilment of plan targets. But there was no profit pay-out in 1986 and official exhortations this year have suggested planned 1987 production figures are not being met.

EC warns U.S. over dollar fall and trade deficit

BRUSSELS (R) — European Community (EC) officials told U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz on Saturday they were concerned about the falling dollar and the growing U.S. trade deficit.

But Mr. Shultz and other U.S. officials here for annual talks between the two trading partners gave no details on what Washington was prepared to do to halt the dollar's slide, EC officials said.

One senior Community official, however, said Mr. Shultz had indicated the U.S. administration was not happy with the currency's decline.

The sagging dollar has overshadowed the annual talks, which in contrast to previous years were

marked by an easing of tension over trade issues.

Mr. Shultz and EC Executive Commission President Jacques Delors revealed little of their discussions on the dollar and the trade deficit. A record deficit figure for October, released last week, sent the U.S. currency into a new slide.

Mr. Shultz, addressing a news conference, declined to say whether he had told Mr. Delors of any planned U.S. move to allow the dollar to fall further or to take specific measures to trim the deficit. He said he would leave all comment to U.S. Treasury Secretary James Baker.

Much of the talks focused on trade issues.

U.S. special Trade Representative Clayton Yeutter told reporters the two sides were handling trade relations better than before and EC officials agreed.

But he suggested that further confrontation was possible if no progress was made in reforming farm trade.

Officials said the two sides had made progress in a dispute over government subsidies for the Western European Airbus consortium, which is in competition with U.S. firms Boeing and McDonnell Douglas.

Mr. Yeutter said he was optimistic about finding a solution to this dispute, but some significant difficulties remained.

Meanwhile, the Senate passed a bill early on Saturday to cut the U.S. federal deficit by \$79.7 bil-

lion over two years and joint congressional negotiators will start ironing out differences over the measures on Monday.

The 72 to 21 vote ended nearly 17 hours of debate on a \$606 billion government spending bill which will fund the government for the rest of the 1988 financial year, which began on Oct. 1.

The bill includes \$5 billion in defence cuts and \$2.6 billion in domestic reductions for the rest of the 1988 fiscal year.

The city has a university, manufactures textiles, footwear and chemicals and trades in grain.

THE Daily Crossword

by Donald B. Groat

ACROSS

- Large amounts
- Small groups
- Common abbr.
- Eng. explorer
- Mine approach
- Yell
- Study place
- Wanton look
- Atop
- Harsh tones
- Yardstick
- Chess term
- Stemutatory
- Daily machines
- Go aimlessly
- Pales
- One who staves
- Comic strip word
- Wading bird
- Soi
- Race distance
- Chall
- Go by car
- N. Dak. city
- Vagrant
- Certain novels
- Night guide
- Yemeni capital
- Large shark
- Most dreaded
- Mythical
- Princess
- Together
- Musically
- Seed covering
- Made haste
- Legal paper
- Swimming
- Normal
- Excuse word
- Strip
- Hawaiian area
- Addicts

DOWN

- Strikebreaker
- Reiner or Sandberg
- Rhyme scheme
- Subservient ones
- Currents
- Friend
- Pinder's products
- Food
- regimens
- Outsider
- Avoided
- Uris novel
- Revers
- Furnishes
- Sault — Marie
- Clothesied
- Grain disease
- Poker money
- Ruile
- Ireland
- Flavor
- Ciphers
- Metallic element
- Lily plant
- Cole and dogs
- War club
- Mission edifices
- City on the Rhone
- Algonquian nature spirit
- Reproduces
- Demented
- Right
- Out adjunct
- City on the Rhone
- Card game
- Wreck
- Punta del
- Rhyme or trick
- Gobs
- Schedule abbr.

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

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Horoscope not received

Peanuts

TRAFFIC IS HEAVY THIS MORNING AT THE APPROACH TO THE BRIDGE.

WE HAVE A REPORT ON A STALLED TRUCK AT THE INTERCHANGE..

ALL FOUR LANES ARE BLOCKED JUST SOUTH OF THE AIRPORT...

WHY ARE YOU TELLING ME ALL THIS? I DON'T EVEN KNOW HOW TO DRIVE!

Mutt'n' Jeff

MUTT, YOU KNOW THAT NEW PILLOW YOU BOUGHT FOR ME STUFFED WITH DUCK FEATHERS?

YES.

WELL, IT QUACKS! IT GOES QUACK! QUACK!

YOU'RE QUACKED! GO BACK TO BED — YOU'RE DREAMING!

QUACK! QUACK! QUACK!

UNEASY LIES THE HEAD ON A PILLOW THAT QUACKS

Andy Capp

YOUR WEIGHT

WELL, HOW MANY GALLONS DO YOU WEIGH? I WON'T YOU EVER LET UP?

THE BETTER HALF By Morris

"The military defense budget is \$5,000 per year for each citizen. Can I just have the money instead?"

JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

GYDUP

FETAC

HEMMAY

SPOUTH

Print answer here:

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: CHICK VIGIL OPIATE BANNER

Answer: "What does the X-ray of my head show?" — "NOTHING"

Reagan to seek SDI funds on a case-by-case basis

OSLO (Agencies) — The White House has decided to stop arguing with Congress over rules governing "Star Wars" and will press for missile defence programmes on a case-by-case basis, Secretary of State George Shultz said Sunday.

Mr. Shultz, on a trip to America's two Scandinavian allies, also ridiculed a proposal for a nuclear-free zone in the Baltics and repeated pleas for adequate NATO defence spending.

Mr. Shultz arrived in Norway for two days of talks, after meeting in Copenhagen with pro-NATO government figures and the leader of an opposition party that favours ridding the Baltics of atomic weapons and opposes U.S. President Ronald Reagan's strategic defence initiative (SDI), also known as "Star Wars."

For two years, the White House has been fighting with Congress for a "broad" inter-

pretation of the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile treaty, asserting the pact permits wide testing and development for SDI.

The majority in Congress believes the treaty limits the programme and has banned any tests under the broad interpretation through next Sept. 30.

Mr. Shultz told reporters at a news conference in Copenhagen that the question faced by the White House was: "Are we going to stand around for ever arguing about what is the broad and what is the narrow?"

"No, operationally what you do is have a budget," he said. "The budget, for the SDI

programme says, here is what we intend to do and here is how much it costs and we want the Congress to appropriate the money to do those things," he said.

"The programme for SDI research will be put forward and we hope Congress will fund it," he said.

Mr. Shultz has been briefing allied leaders on last week's Washington summit. He has reminded NATO governments of their pledge to maintain funding for defence now that intermediate-range nuclear weapons are to be eliminated, assuming Senate ratification of the agreement signed by Mr. Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

Mr. Shultz said Denmark should spend more on defence, and he criticised the proposal to turn the Baltic into a nuclear-free zone.

Soviet media turn focus to economic reform

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet media on Sunday hailed the superpower summit as a major foreign policy achievement for Moscow — then focussed intently on the daunting next stage of domestic economic reform starting on Jan. 1.

The Communist Party newspaper Pravda said the country could be justifiably proud that "the immense work" of Soviet foreign policy-makers "for the salvation of human civilisation from the nuclear threat" had borne fruit in Washington.

"This intensive and purposeful activity led to major results and achievements," it said, saluting last week's meeting between Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev and U.S. President

Ronald Reagan as a breakthrough to the future.

But Pravda and other Soviet newspapers devoted the bulk of their reports to the lack of progress towards converting 60 per cent of the country's industry to new economic conditions at the start of the new year.

The reform, adopted as law last June, aims to make the economy more efficient by reducing central control of factories and inspiring managerial initiative.

Wages will no longer be paid by the state but will come from factories' income to try and stimulate worker interest in results. Some loss-making firms will be allowed to go bankrupt.

The reform represents a major challenge to traditional thinking

in a country where industry has been cushioned by state subsidies and guaranteed paychecks regardless of whether workers met state targets.

As reports in the press made clear, worry is mounting sharply with the approach of the Jan. 1 deadline.

One of the main problems faced by factories due to convert is a perennial shortfall in supplies, which effectively bars them meeting state targets.

The newspaper Sovetskaya Rossiya published an interview with the head of the agro-industrial complex for Moscow, Yuri Luzhkov, who said he felt like a runner at the starting line with a yawning pit before him as the reform date approached.

Philippine plane with 15 aboard missing

MANILA (AP) — A Philippine Airlines (PAL) plane with 15 people aboard disappeared Sunday during a domestic flight to Mindanao Island. A search for the aircraft was suspended because of darkness.

Jose Reyes, deputy operations chief of the Manila rescue coordinating centre said PAL Flight 443 left Cebu airport at 6:45 a.m. (2245 GMT Saturday) with 11 passengers and four crew members bound for Iligan City, some 240 kilometres to the south.

Airline officials said radio contact with the twin-engine SD-360 "Sunrider" was lost after pilot Roberto Sarenas radioed for a weather report at about 7:30 a.m. (2330 GMT Saturday), about 10 minutes before he was to have landed in the northern Mindanao City.

Officials said weather along the route was good, but the government's weather service said there were isolated thunderstorms in the Iligan area about the time the plane was to have landed.

Enrique Santos, PAL vice president for public relations, said air and ground search teams were sent to the area but called off the search at 5 p.m. (0900 GMT) because of darkness and bad weather. He said the search would resume at dawn Monday.

A passenger list released by the airline showed all those aboard had Filipino surnames except for one, a "John Richard Wood." The airline said it did not know Wood's nationality, but a Manila hotel where PAL said he had stayed told AP Wood registered as an Australian.

Violence and chaos mar Nigerian polls

LAGOS (R) — Voting in Nigeria's first elections since 1983 may have to be repeated in some areas, organisers said on Sunday after violence in Lagos and widespread chaos elsewhere.

"It's most likely that in some places the elections will be held again," Eme Awa, chairman of the National Electoral Commission (NEC), told national television.

"The signs are that in some places the electorate has not been given a chance to express its wishes," Mr. Awa said during a break in an all-night talks to probe why millions of voters were turned away without casting votes.

Television reports from most of Nigeria's 21 states spoke of voters

being turned away, often after queuing for up to 10 hours in the blazing sun, because of a shortage of ballot boxes and papers.

Despite the confusion, a large turnout was reported in the election for councillors in the 301 local government areas and voting hours were extended.

Frustration turned to violence in some poor areas of Lagos. Vehicles were stoned and at least two policemen were beaten, the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) said. Police used teargas to disperse protesters.

One section of the main road in Lagos was briefly taken over by stone-throwing youth who set up roadblocks. Protests flared elsewhere in the city after rumours circulated that polling officers con-

spired with candidates to rig results.

The Lagos state electoral commissioner, Reverend Kayode Cadmus, who appealed for calm, said there would be an inquiry before the election results were announced.

"It's very disappointing. This was an ugly situation," the military governor of central Kwara state told television news.

The military government of President Ibrahim Babangida has portrayed the non-party elections as the first important stage in a transition to civilian rule by 1992.

More than 13,000 candidates were standing as councillors. Those elected will remain in office until 1989, when the next polls in the transition will be held.

Feud grows among Tamil rebel groups

COLOMBO (R) — Sri Lanka's Tamil Tigers pledged on Sunday to crush rival separatist groups after two days of guerrilla fighting killed at least three people including a 10-year-old boy.

"These men (groups) are anti-social elements. They are robbing the people and harassing them," a spokesman for the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) said in the northern district of Vavuniya.

"They must be eliminated," he told reporters.

He said Tiger fighters seeking an independent Tamil homeland in the island's north and east were planning attacks on three rival

groups in Vavuniya district next week.

The Tigers, opposed to a July peace accord aimed at ending the bloody four-year-old separatist rebellion, have thrown their fighters into battle against rival groups who support the pact and Indian peace-keeping troops sent to disarm all the guerrillas.

The Tigers on Saturday killed a young member of the People's Liberation Organisation of Tamil Eelam (PLOTE) after pulling him from a bus, residents in the area said.

The Tigers lost one of their men in a reprisal attack the same day.

Something big appears to be happening here... the LTTE is preparing for a big confrontation, very soon, with other groups," a military spokesman at Vavuniya said.

The Tigers had attacked a PLOTE camp at Mannar in the north-west on Saturday, he said. He had no word on casualties.

Residents said a 10-year-old boy was cut down in crossfire between the Tigers and the Tamil Eelam Liberation Organisation (TELO) in Vavuniya district on Friday in a battle military officials say cost the lives of an unknown number of people.

Manila turned into a fortress as ASEAN leaders gather for summit

MANILA (Agencies) — South-East Asian leaders flew into fortress Manila on Sunday for their first regional summit meeting in a decade.

Unarmed military cadets formed a human shield and battle-hardened marines manned checkpoints on city streets in a security screen unprecedented in the troubled, coup-struck Philippine capital.

Analysts said the two-day summit, which many had said would never be held in Manila's explosive environment, was a major vote of regional support for Philippine President Corazon Aquino.

After days of tension and bombings, the only gunfire that shook the city was the blasts of the formal 21 and 19-gun salutes of welcome.

The leaders of the six-member Association of South East Asian

Nations (ASEAN) are expected to concentrate on trade and economic issues to help the region weather an anticipated recession in the United States and a slowdown in the world economy.

A draft communiqué obtained by Reuters, which officials said would be little changed, called on Vietnam to withdraw its troops from Kampuchea but otherwise addressed political issues only in passing.

"Efforts should be intensified to resolve the Kampuchean issue..." the draft declared.

Four agreements on intra-regional trade and investment have been prepared for signing by the leaders.

Brunei's Sultan Sir Muda Hassan Bolkiah, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Mahathir Mohamad of Malaysia, Singapore Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew and Thai

Prime Minister Prem Tinsulanonda were whisked through the airport in low key welcomes lasting only about two minutes.

Indonesian President Suharto was to arrive early Monday, shortly before President Aquino convenes the opening session. Japanese Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita, whose country is not an ASEAN member, arrives Tuesday for meetings with regional leaders on the final summit day.

The summit talks are expected to downplay such sensitive political issues as proposals for a nuclear free zone and the status of U.S. military bases in the Philippines.

Mr. Takeshita is expected to discuss a Japanese offer of up to \$2 billion in economic assistance and his government's plans for a higher-profile role in East Asian politics.

Opposition warns Seoul against rigging elections

SEOUL (AP) — Opposition presidential candidate Kim Dae-Jung contended Sunday that the government would resort to massive fraud to win Wednesday's elections.

He warned government candidate Roh Tae-Woo to prevent any fraud.

"If he's elected through unfair and dishonest means he cannot be exempt from criminal punishment," the candidate said.

A huge, frenzied crowd cheered and applauded the speech, repeatedly chanting "Kim Dae-Jung, Kim Dae-Jung" as they waved yellow flags.

No front-runner has emerged in the election, with Mr. Roh locked in a tight race with Kim Dae-Jung and rival opposition candidate Kim Young-Sam. Three other candidates are trailing far behind.

Mr. Roh expressed confidence that he would win as about 500,000 people cheered and chanted his name at a rally Sunday in the southern city of Taejeu.

Protesters hurled rocks and tear gas at Mr. Roh as he was driving in a motorcade, but the candidate was not hit and the attackers escaped in the crowd.

The opposition has charged that the government will use bribes and vote rigging to win the first direct, popular presidential

election in 16 years.

Kim Dae-Jung said Sunday that if the government uses fraud, it would face the same fate as the late President Syngman Rhee, who was driven into exile in 1960 after aphony election.

Opposition leaders have said repeatedly that Mr. Roh cannot win a fair election and warned that the nation would be plunged into chaos if the government attempted to retain power.

The government put the armed forces on alert Saturday to guard the elections against possible threats from communist North Korea or what it called "impure elements" in the south.

The defence ministry directed army units to be ready for combat and stepped up air force and navy patrols. National police were put on nationwide alert in early December.

At his rally, Kim Dae-Jung also lashed out at President Chun Doo-Hwan, charging that he was helping to rig the elections to get Mr. Roh elected. He said the president's safety could not be guaranteed if he did not stop meddling.

Mr. Chun, a former general who took power with military backing in 1980, bowed to opposition demands for direct elections after massive anti-government protests in June.

KAL search team to retrieve floating debris

SEOUL (R) — A Korean Air Lines (KAL) search team left for the Andaman Sea off Burma on Sunday to retrieve floating debris believed to be from a vanished KAL airliner, a spokesman said.

The KAL spokesman said the search team chartered a 900-ton boat in Burma after U.S. and Burmese military aircraft spotted what appeared to be life jackets and escape slides from the Boeing 707 which disappeared with 115 people on board on Nov. 29.

"The ship will reach the site where the debris were sighted late Sunday and return to Burma in three or four days," the spokesman said. "We were told several orange-coloured pieces were seen along with one or two white objects."

An intensive search along the Thai-Burmese border produced no traces of the KAL plane and airline officials now believe it must have plunged into the sea.

KAL President Cho Choong-Kon arrived in Burma on Saturday to supervise the search operation in the sea, the spokesman said.

Foreign Ministry officials said talks with Bahrain authorities on a Seoul request to extradite a mystery woman suspected of involvement in the destruction of the plane were taking longer than expected.

The woman and her elderly male companion, both East Asians carrying falsified Japanese passports, got off the ill-fated plane in Abu Dhabi.

Soviet rocket puts up spectacular show in U.S.

NEW YORK (AP) — A Soviet rocket used to launch a communications satellite burst as it entered the earth's atmosphere Saturday night, putting on a spectacular light show over a broad area of the middle and western United States, officials said.

The dying rocket left a fiery trail in its wake as it headed southeastward across the darkened skies, said Major Alex Mondragon of the U.S. space command in Colorado. Trackers spotted the rocket over the coast of western Canada and followed its southeastward course across the United States past the Florida gulf coast, he said.

People from Texas to Montana called police or the news media, saying they saw vividly coloured streaks of blue, red and other hues.

"It looked like a helicopter, with red and green lights," said Paul Kellenhager of Pea Ridge, Arkansas, who ran outside with his wife to view the lights. "And it looked like it had a trail behind it. I've never seen anything like it. It was spectacular, beautiful colours."

The display was caused by a Soviet rocket body used in the launch of Raduga 21 communications satellite Dec. 10 and tracked by the space command since then, Major Mondragon said.

Study finds lack of birth control spurring population rise

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Millions of Third World women want to use birth control but lack the means to do so, the private research organisation Worldwatch Institute said on Saturday.

It said a study by one of its researchers, Jodi Jacobson, showed that "if the needs of even half of the women lacking access to family planning had been satisfied, annual additions to human population would now be falling instead of rising."

She said surveys show that half the 463 million married women of reproductive age in developing nations, outside of China, want no more children and millions more would like to delay their next child.

China put a one-child rule into effect in the 1970s and lowered its birthrate to 2.1 a woman,

although a baby boom has pushed the figure slightly higher now.

Ms. Jacobson said in the report and in an interview with Reuters that while the number of women of childbearing age is rising rapidly, few countries beyond China have put family planning at the top of their agendas.

Birthrates were declining in many developing countries, but only Cuba, Singapore, South Korea and Taiwan had achieved replacement-level fertility of two children per couple, the report said.

Ms. Jacobson cited impressive reductions in birthrates in Brazil, Mexico, Indonesia and India, but fertility rates remained moderately high — about 3.5 children a woman.

While fertility has declined overall, the world's population still increased by 87 million this

year to top the five billion mark, the study observes.

Africa has the world's highest birth rate, averaging 44 births per 1,000 people, the independent Population Reference Bureau reported in April. Asia, not including China has the second-highest birth rate at 33 per 1,000 people while Latin America has a rate of 30.

While the developing world struggles with too many people, the large industrial nations face the opposite problem — so few babies that their populations may begin to shrink.

The United States averages 16 births per 1,000 people while Canada has a current birth rate of 15. Europe has the lowest birth rate at 13 per 1,000 people.

The countries with the lowest listed birthrates are West Ger-

many and Italy, both with 10 per 1,000.

Slower economic growth in debt-plagued developing nations means governments cannot rely on social and economic improvements to help reduce birthrates, the study says.

Encouraging smaller families requires both family planning and social change, Ms. Jacobson writes.

But while contraceptive technology is widely available in modern industrial nations, such choices are unavailable or inaccessible to women in many Third World nations.

And international support for family planning has weakened in recent years, she pointed out, particularly as a result of funding cuts by the United States.

"Instead of cutting back on

international family planning assistance, the United States and other industrial countries need to increase their contributions," she reports.

Priority should be given to gathering information on where the need is greatest and on developing family planning programmes in the poorest and most rapidly growing nations, says Ms. Jacobson.

In addition, developing countries need to make a greater contribution and commitment to family planning, she says, rather than spending excessive sums on military forces.

"The overpopulation, hunger and political unrest that are likely to result from continued high fertility pose far greater threats to national security than any outside aggressor," reported Ms. Jacobson.



Cicciolina barred from Gulf visit

ROME (R) — Porn star-turned-politician Ilona Staller said on Saturday that her party had stopped her paying a Christmas visit to Italian sailors serving in the Gulf. Staller, better known by her stage name of Cicciolina (little cuddly one), said the Radical Party had told her its parliamentary leader Francesco Rutelli would be going instead. "They decided he would substitute me behind my back," she told reporters. Staller, elected to parliament in June this year, wanted to visit the sailors from 22 to 24 with the parliamentary defence committee, to which she belongs.

Police find hash cache in church

KLAGENFURT, Austria (R) — Police have arrested a 37-year-old Roman Catholic priest after discovering hashish worth around one million schillings (\$85,000) in his parish church, a police spokesman said. Johann Wornig, parish priest in the small Carinthian village of St. Georgen am Weinberg, was arrested on suspicion of breaking Austria's drug laws. The spokesman in Klagenfurt, capital of the southern province of Carinthia, said Wornig admitted the offence but did not take the drug himself.

Frankenstein monster, Kong's hand on auction block

NEW YORK (AP) — The handwritten screenplay for "The Wizard of Oz" sold for \$40,000 at an auction that also featured memorabilia from horror flicks, science-fiction fantasies and monsterabilia from one man's collection. Among the items being auctioned Saturday and Sunday from the collection of Forrest J. Ackerman were a two-metre model of Frankenstein's monster; King Kong's mechanical hand, which once held Fay Wray; Bela Lugosi's evening coat, pen and knife; and more than 700 movie posters and lobby cards. "I live in a four-storey home with three garages, all filled with the collection," said Ackerman, 72, who began assembling his eclectic assortment of movie stills, manuscripts, autographs and posters at the age of nine. "I decided I could let the tip of the iceberg go." Fans of both Ackerman and his collection turned out for the auction of about 2,000 items, most of them duplicates from the 300,000-plus items owned by the man known as "Mr. Science Fiction."

Snoring spectator stops performance of 'Macbeth'

BRESCIA, Italy (AP) — An Italian actor refused to complete the final death scene in a performance of Shakespeare's "Macbeth" after a snoring spectator elicited laughter from the audience, newspapers reported. Gabriele Lavia, who directed and played Macbeth in the production highly praised by Italian critics, interrupted the death scene of Lady Macbeth in the final hour of the play, turned to the audience in anger and left the stage. The interruption left Lady Macbeth, played by Monica Guerritore, alive and alone on the stage of this northern city's Teatro Grande. Despite the spectators' insistent applause, the stage curtain fell — and stayed down.

Judge sentences man who killed wife to watch movie

DEERFIELD BEACH, Florida (AP) — A judge has ordered a 77-year-old man who killed his wife and tried to kill himself to watch the movie classic "It's a Wonderful Life" as part of his sentence. Philip Tiger admitted stabbing his wife, Ruth, to death in February, then trying to kill himself. He was convicted of manslaughter Friday and could have faced a seven-year prison term. But Broward Circuit Judge Lawrence Korda sentenced Tiger to 30 days in jail, two years under house arrest, five years of probation and 500 hours of work in nursing homes. Tiger also was told to watch the holiday movie starring American actor Jimmy Stewart. It was scheduled to air during the weekend on a local station.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SERRAF
21007 Tribune Media Service, Inc.

MAKE A BREAK

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH		SOUTH	
♠ A Q 5	♠ 10 7 3 2	♠ A	♠ K 9
♥ 10 8 6 4	♥ 2	♥ J 8 5	♥ 10 7 4
♦ K Q J 8 6	♦ 10 7 4	♦ J 5 5 4	♦ A 10 4
♣ A 10 4	♣ 9 7 3	♣ K	♣ 9 5 3 2

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 3 ♣ Pass
2 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ Pass
4 ♠ Pass 4 NT Pass
5 ♠ Pass 5 NT Pass
6 ♠ Pass 7 ♠ Pass
Pass Pass
Opening lead: King of ♠

That extra chance which ensures a contract is often concealed. Can you spot the winning line on today's hand?

North-South bid intelligently to an excellent spade slam.

North chose to play in spades rather than hearts because the former might be able to withstand a bad heart break, and in spades an extra trick or two might be developed by diamond ruffs.